



Post-operative care for patients after prostate surgery

The prostate is a secondary sex organ found in male dogs. It is located around the urethra as it leaves the bladder on its way to enter the penis.

Signs of prostate disease often include pain, especially on defaecation and faecal straining may be seen. There may be difficulty/straining on urinating, and signs of cystitis (blood in the urine etc).

An enlarged / painful prostate can often be palpated per rectum.

Common prostatic diseases include prostatic hyperplasia (enlarged prostate); prostatic neoplasia (cancer); prostatic abscessation (localised infection) or cystic disease. Cysts may be throw backs to embryological developmental abnormalities, or they may originate from leaks in the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder to the penis, routing through the prostate.

Prostate surgery usually includes castration if this hasn't been done already, and removal of small pieces of prostate to send to the lab. It is common to omentalise the prostate, which involves passing a loop of omentum through the prostate. The omentum is a double sheet or sac of lacey membrane which acts as a trouble shooter in the abdomen, helping heal damaged viscera by adhering, sealing, draining, helping with clotting, providing a blood supply and bringing local defences to bear.

Medication:

Antibiotics:	Antibiotics like claviseptin are given for a few days (usually tablets given twice daily).
Anti-inflammatories:	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, NSAIDs, usually start/resume the morning after surgery. These are tablets (eg carprofen, Onsior or Previcox), or liquid (meloxicam). They should be given with food. If vomiting or diarrhoea is noted, stop this medication and seek prompt advice.
Analgesics:	We may have dispensed tramadol, (tablets given twice daily) for 5-7 days.

The wound must not be interfered with or bathed. An Elizabethan collar can help prevent interference with wounds. Any ooze may be gently blotted with kitchen towel, but if ooze is seen, advice should be sought.

From immediately post op, your pet can eat and drink. Eating, drinking and urination should have been seen on the morning after surgery, and at least once daily thereafter – if not, please call us without delay. Defaecation may not restart for several days post-op.

Rechecks a few days after surgery may be with your own vet to save un-necessary travelling. We could do this check-up if travelling is not an issue, and all post-op check-ups are free of charge with us under our "fixed price" schemes. Please contact us to book an appointment for us to see the case back 2-3 weeks post-operatively when we can remove sutures/staples and check that all is going to plan.

Dressings may be used post-operatively, typically a thin white Primapore, to give the wound some on-going protection. These should be kept dry at all times. It is very unlikely that you will get a replacement Primapore to stick, so leave ours in place as long as possible! A little dried discharge may be evident on the Primapore, but gently blot any on-going discharge with kitchen towel and **seek prompt advice**.

Strict restriction and supervision of activity is required for the few weeks while the wound heals. Dogs should be on a lead anywhere outside of the house including the garden. Allow just 5-10 minutes of lead restricted exercise, three times a day, until you are advised to the contrary.

What does the future hold?

Enlarged prostates usually shrink down within a few weeks after castration as the hormone environment changes.

If there is neoplasia (cancer) in the prostate, unfortunately the prognosis is generally poor and euthanasia is often required.

If there is abscessation in the prostate, the prognosis is usually bright after omentalisation.

If there were cysts, if these connect to the urinary tract the prognosis usually depends on whether we are able to re-establish a normal urinary flow without urine pooling and stagnating in the cyst.

Our fixed prices include any follow up consults done with us, and medication for around 5 days post-operatively, but don't include further medication or revision surgery. Consults, dressings and drugs from your usual vet will be chargeable. For further details on our fixed prices please see www.wm-referrals.com, "about us", "FAQs". For further advice please contact us on 07944 105501 or at enquiries@wm-referrals.com. Consider texting/emailing pictures or short videos