

Postoperative Care Instructions for an Arytenoid Lateralization (Tie Back)

Your pet has had a procedure with North Peninsula Veterinary Surgical Group called an arytenoid lateralization. This surgery, involving a “tie back” of the cartilage in their airway, will allow your pet to breathe more easily and comfortably. Due to the nature of laryngeal paralysis, the possibility for significant postoperative complications is high. This may include aspiration of fluid into the lungs as well as procedure failure. It is important to allow your pet time to heal, avoiding possible injury while they recover. Please keep this in mind and strictly follow the postoperative care instructions here.

What to Watch For

When you get home, take a baseline count of your pet’s breaths at rest over a period of time so that you’re able to identify differences during recovery. Abrupt changes in breathing, including hoarseness, are serious and must be addressed immediately. Failure of the procedure, if it happens, typically occurs in the first 4-6 weeks of recovery and may require an additional corrective procedure.

Activity

- Absolutely no running or jumping, unsupervised use of stairs, or playing roughly with any pets or children.
- It’s crucial that you help your pet **AVOID ALL BARKING**. Any barking or sounds can disrupt the tie-back or surgical site and cause a failure of the procedure. We suggest keeping your pet in an environment where you can control barking triggers (such as wildlife outside and doorbells or knocks).
- Plan for three daily walks using **ONLY A HARNESS**. Due to the nature of the surgery, any collar or leash that goes around the neck could cause life-threatening issues. This will be the case for the life of the pet after this type of procedure.

Incision Site

- Monitor the surgical site daily for infection. This can present as swelling, redness, discharge or signs of sudden pain to the touch. Call us immediately if you notice any of these.
- Discourage scratching at the incision. Call us if you’re struggling to control this behavior.
- Keep the surgery site clean and dry. Do not apply any ointments or other treatments. No bathing or swimming for 14 days after the procedure.



Medications

Make sure you have a plan to give all medications as directed, including reminders where necessary. Call us if you believe your pet may be having a poor reaction to any of their medications.

Food & Water

- Make sure your pet has ready access to water and their regular food.
- Try to help your pet avoid eating too quickly, as this can cause them to aspirate food into their lungs. We can offer suggestions if this becomes an issue.
Aim for multiple, smaller meals throughout the day.

Recovery Trajectory

You can generally expect your pet to have a slow but steady recovery. If you notice that your pet is lethargic, experiencing more pain or seems generally unwell, please call us immediately.

Follow-up Appointment

We will schedule a follow-up appointment to remove sutures and/or staples 10 to 12 days after the procedure. At that time, we will discuss additional appointments as necessary.

Long Term Considerations

Please keep in mind that your pet will always be at risk for developing a condition called aspiration pneumonia. Due to the nature of the surgery, this is a constant lifetime risk. Prompt diagnosis and treatment is vital for this life-threatening condition. Watch for a cough, refusal of food, fever and lethargy. Please notify us immediately if any of these occur.

We're here to help throughout your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns.

