

Dog Surgery Recovery Checklist

The first two weeks after surgery are mostly about **rest, a protected incision and medication on schedule**. Follow your vet’s discharge instructions first; this sheet keeps the daily checks in one place and makes it easy to tell what’s normal from what needs a call.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

DOG’S NAME

SURGERY & DATE

VET PHONE

EVERY DAY

☐ **Check the incision twice a day.** A photo helps you compare.

☐ **Cone or recovery suit on** all the time, not on and off.

☐ **Leash-only potty breaks.** No running, jumping or rough play (often 7–14 days).

☐ **Medication exactly as directed**, without skipping doses.

☐ **No baths or swimming** until your vet says the incision can get wet.

☐ **Note appetite, pee and poop.** A 1–2 day wait for the first poop is common.

NORMAL OR CALL?

Usually normal

Clean, edges together, slightly pink; a little on-and-off seepage in the first 24 hours; sleepy for about a day.

Also call

Can’t pee or straining, no poop for several days, worsening pain or lethargy, a cough that gets worse.

Call your vet

Dripping or seepage after 24 hours; swelling, heat, pus, a bad smell or an opened incision; stitches chewed out.

Signs of pain

Panting at rest, a hunched posture, restlessness, licking one spot, whimpering, eating less. Call if pain seems to be getting worse.

RECOVERY LOG

DAY / DATE	INCISION	APPETITE	PEE · POOP	MEDS GIVEN	NOTES

Never give human pain relievers (ibuprofen, naproxen, aspirin) unless your vet prescribes them: they can cause stomach ulcers and kidney or liver damage. Stitches or staples come out on your vet’s date, usually 7–14 days.