

Post-operative care – Thyroidectomy

Pet Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Your cat has had a procedure to remove the enlarged thyroid gland from their neck. This will reduce the amount of thyroid hormone circulating in the blood, and resolve the signs of having levels that are too high.

Caring for your pet after an anaesthetic

Your pet may still be a bit sleepy from the anaesthetic so should be kept warm and quiet at home.

The after-effects of the anaesthetic may persist for a couple of days.

Offer food and water after the surgery. Your pet will need nutrition to start healing.

Any clipped hair will start growing back after a couple of weeks.

Medications: (continue to give any other prescribed medications as instructed, but stop any thyroid medication)

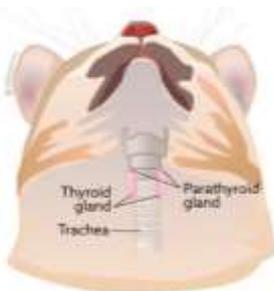
| Medication | Reason | Amount per dose | Frequency of dosing | Length of Course | Start date/time |
|------------|--------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
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Post op Appointments:

| Post op Check | With | Date | Time | Other Instructions |
|---------------|------|------|------|--------------------|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |

For VetCW checks, do not feed after 10pm the night before your appointment, but do give water

Hypocalcemia (low blood calcium) may occur as a post-operative complication. When the thyroid gland is removed surgically, the neighbouring parathyroid gland may be inadvertently damaged or removed. This happens because the parathyroid gland can be masked by the abnormal thyroid gland. The parathyroid gland controls blood calcium levels, so damage can cause calcium levels to drop.



Signs of hypocalcemia include:

- anxiety
- depression
- twitching
- facial itch
- seizure
- appetite loss
- weakness
- muscle tremors
- collapse

If you see any of these signs please call your practices out of hours provider

Your cat will need to have a post operative blood test the next day to check the calcium levels. Please arrange this with your usual vet.

Rest is required, so please keep your cat inside and provide a litter tray in a quiet area away from their food and water.

If you have any issues, please contact your regular practice for advice. They will contact us if necessary but should be able to help with most questions.

Kind regards,

Colin Whiting and the VetCW Surgical team