



After Operation

Why do dogs and cats need special care after operation?

- The animal may suffer shock.
- The wound must be kept clean and dry.
- The animal is more likely to catch infection.

What extra treatment should they have?

Keep the animal warm and quiet. The animal should be given a supply of clean water to drink and needs to be checked regularly until it is completely awake.

What extra care can be taken with dogs and cats after operation?

Action	Reason
Put the animal in a cage big enough for it to lay down comfortably and with enough room to stand.	To keep the animal quiet and still until it wakes up completely.
Give the animal a bowl with a small amount of clean, off the chill, water.	When the animal wakes up it will possibly need to drink. By giving only a small amount of water it makes this possible, but lessens the chance of the bowl being tipped and the wound becoming wet. Water needs to be "off the chill" to prevent vomiting.
Wrap the animal in a clean blanket.	Helps to prevent loss of body heat.
Keep the wound clean and dry.	Helps to prevent the wound becoming infected.
If the animal should pass urine or faeces whilst in the recovery cage clean it out as soon as possible and replace the blanket.	Could cause infection of the wound.
Put an "Elizabethan Collar" on the dog (or make something similar if there is not one available). Cats generally react badly to this type of collar.	To stop the dog licking the wound and prevent the stitches from being chewed and possibly removed. Care should be taken to make sure that cats are not chewing.

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