

## Closed suction wound drain (w/ “grenade”)



One of the most useful and efficient ways to convey information to you about your pet is via the written word. We carefully craft these notes to give you helpful information and accurate expectations around your pet's surgical experience.

**Please read this.** *Please save it and read it during each stage of the recovery process.* Surprises make for a stressful time for everyone.

Photo and video examples may be found on our website: [www.directvetsurg.com](http://www.directvetsurg.com) in the Pet Owner Portal under “DVS Resources”.

Your pet has had a drain tube placed in the surgical wounds to allow tissue fluids to drain out of the site and prevent harmful accumulation of fluid. The drain should remain in place only long enough to allow for drainage of the extra fluids created by the disease and surgical procedure; the drain should be removed by your primary care veterinarian before it itself causes enough irritation to create more fluid (5-7d).

For the next few days, you will need to provide some at-home nursing care to maintain proper drain function. These steps may at first seem troublesome, but will become routine over several days. It is very difficult for you to “mess anything up” too badly; if a drain is accidentally pulled out or damaged, it is rarely a major problem. Please seek advice and assistance from your primary care veterinary staff if you have any troubles with the drain management.

The collection grenade is both the receptacle for the fluid and the device that creates the suction. It will need to be emptied and “re-armed” 2-5x daily as directed below.

1. Unclip the grenade from the bandage and free up the tubing so you have several inches to work with.
2. Unplug the cap next to where the tube enters the grenade; hold the grenade upside down and squeeze the fluids out into a container (for discard).
3. Firmly squeeze and fold the grenade to make it very compact, hold and reattach the cap. Suction will be re-established as the grenade expands.
4. Re-clip the grenade to the bandage and tuck in the tubing to protect it from snags.

The timing of the grenade emptying should be whenever the blub is  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. This will be more frequent in the first few hours/days and taper off in frequency thereafter.

The drain should be removed in approximately 5-7 days. Please return to your primary care veterinary clinic to have it removed. This is a simple, quick and painless procedure.