

Closed suction wound drain (w/ “butterflies”)



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 in the Pet Owner Portal under “DVS Resources”.

Your pet has had one or more drainage tubes (custom created from “butterfly” catheters) placed in the surgical wound to allow tissue fluids to drain out of the site and prevent harmful accumulation of fluid. The drains should remain in place only long enough to allow for drainage of the extra fluids created by the surgical procedure; they should be removed by your primary care veterinarian before they themselves cause enough irritation to create more fluid.

MONITORING

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 the next few 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 with your primary care veterinarian if you are having any troubles with this drain management.

A drain tube collection system has been installed in the surgical wound, and the collection tube(s) will need to be changed 2-3 times daily as directed below.

- 1) Lift off the piece of tape that is holding the glass tube(s) attached to the bandage.
- 2) Pull back the small tape tab from the glass tube toward the needle/thin tubing (leave it attached to the needle/tubing so you can re-secure it to the new glass tube.)
- 2) Remove the glass tube with red rubber stopper from the end of the needle and discard.
- 3) Attach a new/empty tube by sliding the needle into the red rubber stopper.

4) Replace the tape tab to the glass tube so the needle is held securely in the stopper.

5) Secure the tube(s) to the bandage/patient again with a strip of tape.

The timing of tube changes should be whenever the glass tubes are $\frac{3}{4}$ full. This will likely be more frequent in the first day or so and then reduce in frequency thereafter. If you are a few hours late in changing the tubes, this will not cause major problems.

You will need **approximately _____ drain tubes** to last you thru this nursing care period. If you run out, please get more supplies from your primary care veterinary team.

BANDAGE CARE (IF PRESENT)

A clear, plastic bandaid may have been applied to the incision/drain (Tegaderm). This will protect the incision from infection from the environment and a wayward pet tongue! It is useful for up to 7-10 days. It will be removed when the drain is removed.

If a bandage has been applied over or near the surgical site, please monitor for signs of slippage. If the bandage slips dramatically, please return to your veterinarian for adjustment or removal. Often the role of this bandage is to support the drain tubes and can be removed when the drains are removed

PROGRESS EXAMS

The drain(s) should remain in place for **approximately _____ days**. Please return to your primary care veterinary clinic to have the drains removed. This is a simple, quick and painless procedure.