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## Postop Low Calcium (Parathyroid surgery)

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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.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

When a patient has had an enlarged parathyroid gland/tumor removed because of **high** calcium, a rebound **low** calcium can develop in the first week or so. This can be minor or life-threatening.

Early detection is important. Signs that you may see at home include:

- loss of appetite
- quiet, lethargic, weak
- rubbing/itching/pawing at face
- GI upset, vomiting
- muscle twitching, anywhere on body/face

If you see any of these signs in the first week, please seek veterinary care immediately for calcium assessment. It is better to check too frequently than be late in detecting low calcium.

We also recommend monitoring blood calcium values with your primary care veterinarian **daily** (or ER veterinary clinic afterhours) for the first 7 days, and then on a schedule until stable/normal.