

Post-operative pain

Effects of pain

Pain causes reduced appetite and stress, which can both result in delayed wound healing. It results in prolonged recoveries and may lead to self-mutilation and interference with wounds. Adequate pain management in the post-operative period is essential - should you have any concerns, please contact the surgery.

Recognising pain

The following signs may indicate pain:

Dog	Cat
Reduced appetite	Vocalization, during the painful stimulus or when being handled.
Dullness / depression	Guarding behaviour when the painful area is touched
Whining / howling	Aggressive behaviour, hissing, growling, especially when the animal is disturbed
Restlessness, being unable to settle or sitting in unnatural positions	Hiding away
Self-mutilation or chewing at wounded area	Inappetance or anorexia
Increased breathing rate	Reduced interaction with the owner or other pets in the house
Aggression or unresponsiveness	Reduction in grooming behaviour
Resentment of gentle palpation of wound	Resentment of gentle palpation of wound

Potential side-effects

- Opioids e.g. morphine, methadone, buprenorphine, tramadol - These are strong pain killers and may result in respiratory depression, sedation, vomiting or diarrhoea
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) e.g. meloxicam, carprofen - these are anti-inflammatory pain killers and may result in vomiting and/or diarrhoea, gastro-intestinal ulceration or kidney damage



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