

## WARREN HOUSE VETERINARY CENTRE

### Post-Airway Surgery Homecare

Your pet has recently undergone airway surgery. During this procedure, the soft palate located at the back of the throat may be too long and require shortening to prevent it from being sucked into the airway during inspiration; the nostrils may also be widened at the same time to allow more oxygen into the respiratory system.

This procedure is typically performed on patients who are brachycephalic or “flat-faced” such as Bulldogs and Boxers, however it is not restricted to these breeds. The goal of this procedure is to improve the patients exercise tolerance and reduce respiratory noise.

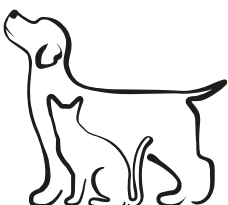
#### **Complications:**

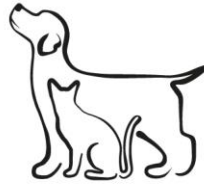
Please notify the practice at once if any of the following occur:

- Vomiting after 24 hours at home
- Diarrhoea
- Refusal to eat or drink after 24 hours at home
- No passing of urine or faeces 24 hours after their procedure
- Signs of severe pain (mild pain and discomfort are normal for the first few days after surgery)
- Bleeding or discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth
- If your pet acts off or seems “not right” in any other way
- Excessive coughing or signs of aspiration

#### **What to expect:**

- Restricted exercise for at least two weeks while the throat and nostrils heal.
- Excitement and barking should be avoided where possible in order to allow for the best recovery.
- A harness should be worn instead of a collar to prevent pressure being applied to the throat even when not going for walks etc.
- Post-Operative Telephone Call - A staff member will call you a few days after the procedure to check on your pet. Do not be alarmed. This is a routine call to find out how your pet is progressing after their surgery.





## WARREN HOUSE VETERINARY CENTRE

### What's included?

#### Medication:

**Antibiotics:** Antibiotics should be prescribed following surgery to prevent infection due to the surgical site being unsterile, these are usually given twice daily for up to a week post-operatively.

**Anti-inflammatories:** Anti-inflammatories are prescribed following surgery to provide pain relief and anti-inflammatory action which helps prevent/control swelling.

**Steroids:** Steroids are often prescribed before and after these surgeries as it helps control swelling.

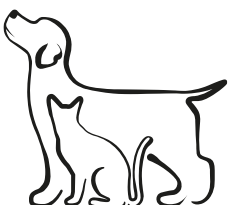
**Stomach protectors:** Stomach protectors, such as omeprazole, are also prescribed following airway surgery as this reduces the risk of vomiting and regurgitation which can irritate the airway further, it also reduces the risk of aspiration if your pet is to vomit/regurgitate post operatively.

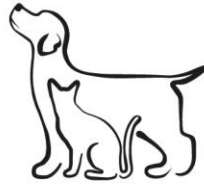
**2 Post-Op Checks** are performed by Veterinary Nurses or veterinary care assistants and are included in the price of your pet's surgery; however, if your pet requires additional treatment such as antibiotics, pain relief or potentially further surgery, the owner is responsible for all costs of necessary treatment because of any complications. These complications are all very rare and are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Post-op checks are usually carried out at 3 days and at 1 week post-operatively to ensure your pet is healing correctly and there are no complications following surgery. Please attend these appointments as it is important for us to assess the progress of your pet, if anything changes between appointments – please do not hesitate to come back sooner.

By following the guidelines below, you will be able to dramatically speed up your pet's Recovery.

- Offer your pet small amounts of water when you get home and small balls of food can be offered a few hours later – we recommend a bland diet such as chicken/white fish and rice/pasta or the food included in your home care package. This should be done slowly, and your pet should never be allowed to gorge themselves or be feeding/drinking without supervision for the first few days





## WARREN HOUSE VETERINARY CENTRE

following surgery. However, their appetite may not be completely normal for a few days after surgery.

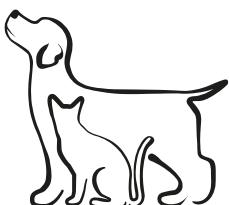
- Check the nostrils for any signs of infection or inflammation in the days following surgery – any sign of swelling, inflammation or discharge can be a sign of infection.
- Restrict running, jumping, and climbing stairs.
- Do not give any over-the-counter pain relievers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen as these can be poisonous to pets. We will prescribe non-steroidal pain relief medication for the following 3-5 days after surgery which should keep your pet comfortable during their recovery.
- It is recommended that your dog/cat is kept away from other animals to not cause damage to the incision sites through licking or playing.

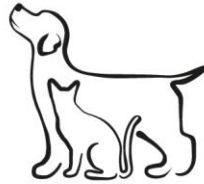
We usually use dissolvable stitches in the nostrils which do not require removing, they are also extremely fine so may not even be visible. If any issues occur relating to the sutures, this should be picked up on your post op checks or can be sorted at any point following the surgery if you are concerned.

### **Complications:**

Some retching, gagging, or coughing may be present for a few days after surgery – this can be due to the surgery itself, but also due to the endotracheal tube placement which can cause some discomfort.

Regrettably, as discussed before your pet's surgery, perioperative mortality (death) is a risk following airway surgery. These risks are sometimes unavoidable due to the nature of the surgery. The airway is critically important and as such, any swelling or haemorrhage can be life threatening – this is often why we recommend going to our out of hours provider Willows for overnight monitoring.





**WARREN HOUSE**  
VETERINARY CENTRE

Thank you for choosing Warren House Vets for your pet's care. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

**Telephone:** 01543 373033

**WhatsApp:** 07999048536.

**Facebook:** Warren House Veterinary Centre Ltd

## Post-Operative Out-of-Hours/Emergency Support



If you have any concerns following your pet's surgery, we offer free out-of-hours veterinary advice support with a UK Registered Vet, over the phone, as a part of our VIP Club.

To sign up please email: [info@warrenhousevets.co.uk](mailto:info@warrenhousevets.co.uk)



Willows Veterinary Centre and Referral Service Ltd  
Highlands Road,  
Shirley, Solihull,  
B90 4NH  
0121 712 7070

*Thank You!*

