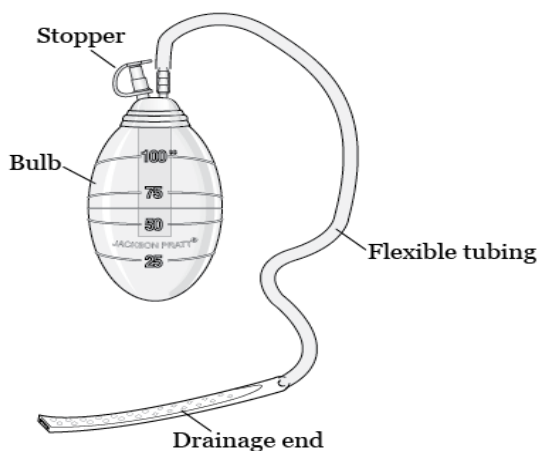


Jackson Pratt Drain Management

Your pet has had surgery that required placement of a Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain. Together with us, you are responsible for the outcome of the surgery. To help ensure a good outcome, it is essential that you care for your pet at home by following these instructions explicitly. Failure to do so may cause complications which can necessitate revision surgery at an additional cost. Please contact us if you are at all concerned during your pet's recovery.

JP Drains



A Jackson-Pratt drain is a type of active suction drain that is used to remove fluid from a surgical site that would otherwise accumulate due to space created after tumour or cyst removal, inflammation, infection, and/or necrosis. Active drains utilise a closed suction system that requires negative pressure to "vacuum out" the fluid into an external reservoir that looks a bit like a hand grenade. JP drains are typically placed in wounds to evacuate fluid accumulation which helps to reduce the chance of bacterial infection of the fluid, allows the separated tissues to heal together, and reduces pressure within the wound that can cause pain and decrease local blood flow.

Caring for JP drains at home

- Your pet needs to wear an e-collar to prevent chewing and licking of the drain/surgical site.
- The bulb/grenade on the drain should be checked 3-4 times a day or as needed based on the amount of fluid in the bulb.
- Please empty to grenade each time and re-apply the vacuum to it so it keeps working. For a video on how to do this, see youtube: <https://t2m.io/4d2oLeZT>

If you have a QR reader on your mobile device, then scan this code to watch a brief video on how to empty a JP drain:



- Please notify your regular veterinarian if the drain is not draining.
- Please record the daily fluid volume in the reservoir: this will help determine the optimal time to remove the drain.
- Drains are usually removed 2-4 days post surgery based on the fluid produced; please discuss with your regular veterinarian and make an appointment for drain removal.

When to call your vet

- If you have any doubt about the health of your pet following surgery, please contact your regular veterinarian immediately to speak to one of the team.
- In the event of an out of hours emergency, please call your nearest Veterinary Emergency Service.
- Leakage at a surgical drain site
- Blockage of drain
- If drainage is minimal, ensure the drain is not blocked, if blocked, notify your treating veterinarian

Jackson Pratt Drain Management

- Inadvertent drain removal
- If you are concerned about your pets wellbeing or are unsure if something is wrong with the wound or drain.

Re-examination

Re-examination is advised in 4 days (but sooner if you are concerned) to examine the wound and most likely remove the drain. There is often some bruising and swelling around the surgery site; this is normal and should resolve uneventfully.

Medications

- Anti-inflammatory: _____
Label instructions on the packet should be followed.
- Analgesic patch (fentanyl). This will be removed at the 4 day recheck.
- Tramadol tablets - Label instructions on the packet should be followed.
- Cephalexin
- Amoxyclav
- _____
- _____
- _____

Post-operative exercise

Strict rest (no free exercise allowed) for the next 2 weeks. This means your pet should be confined to a crate for the entire duration of this period. The wound site may ooze, so please keep your pet in a clean, dry dust free area to prevent dirt sticking to the wound (and also prevent the ooze ending up on your furniture!). For most patients and owners, this is a difficult time. Pets that are used to free roaming around the house and yard can unfortunately become a bit distressed and even depressed. Thankfully, the strict confinement period is only for about two weeks, and after that, an increasing amount of freedom may be permitted.