

Common Complications After Surgery for Pets

Most pets recover without problems, but it's important to watch for signs of complications. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any of the following.



Bleeding

A small amount of spotting can be normal. Continuous bleeding or blood that soaks the bandage or bedding is not normal.



What to do:

Apply gentle pressure with a clean cloth and contact your veterinarian immediately or go to an emergency clinic.



Swelling

Mild swelling is normal at first. Increasing swelling, especially if hard, painful, or not going down, can be a problem.



What to do:

Monitor closely and limit activity. Contact your veterinarian if swelling increases or does not improve in 24–48 hours.



Discharge or Drainage

Clear or light pink drainage can be normal. Yellow, green, or foul-smelling discharge may indicate infection.



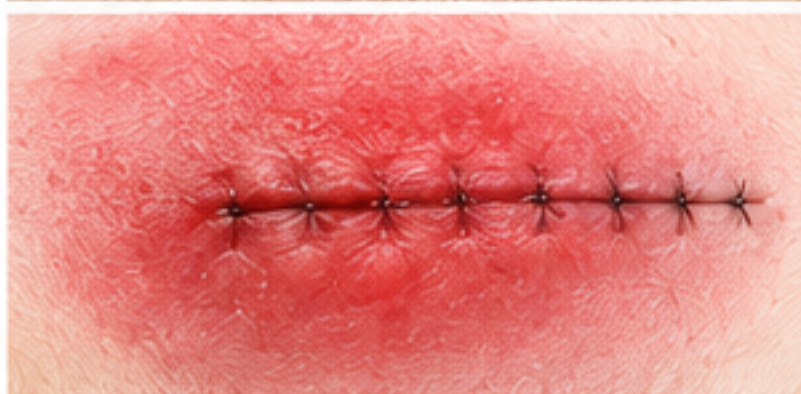
What to do:

Keep the area clean and prevent licking. Contact your veterinarian if discharge is thick, colored, or has a bad odor.



Infection

Signs include redness, swelling, warmth, pain, discharge, or a bad odor. Your pet may also be lethargic or have a fever.



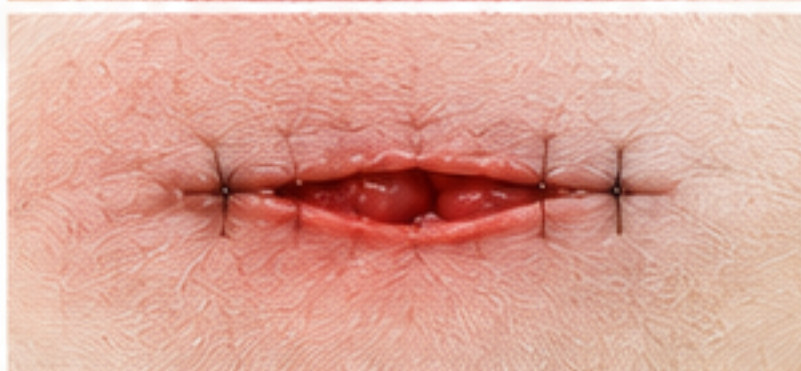
What to do:

Contact your veterinarian. Infections may need treatment with medications and possibly additional care.



Dehiscence (Wound Opening)

The incision may open if stitches break or the wound is traumatized (licking, chewing, jumping, or rough play).



What to do:

Keep your pet calm and prevent licking or chewing. Contact your veterinarian promptly. This often requires re-suturing and care.



Loss of Appetite or Lethargy

Some pets may eat less for a day, but ongoing inappetence or extreme tiredness can be a sign of a complication.



What to do:

Encourage rest and monitor closely. Contact your veterinarian if your pet won't eat, seems painful, or is very lethargic.



Licking or Chewing

Excessive licking or chewing can irritate the incision and lead to infection or wound opening.



What to do:

Use an e-collar and keep activity limited. Contact your veterinarian if the wound becomes irritated or opens.



REMEMBER

Every pet heals at their own pace. If you are ever unsure, it's always best to contact your veterinarian.

