

Postoperative care after total ear canal ablation and lateral bulla osteotomy

1. Exercise restrictions

Leash walk to urinate and defecate for 3 weeks.

2. Some swelling of the wound is normal, as is some bruising which can be very dark red. Often as healing progresses, the swelling can move outward and the bruising can spread out. You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection IF:

A: the wound becomes very swollen or discharges a yellow or green material

B: your dog becomes very depressed or lethargic.

If these signs occur, you should contact your veterinarian

Sometimes the wound will ooze some blood during the first 24-48 hours at home. You should not be alarmed at this; you can hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding.

3. What is a normal postoperative course?

Your dog may shake his/her ears as a result of the sutures being present until they are removed. Please continue to give the antibiotics as directed. Once the results of a bacterial culture from the ears are known it may be that the antibiotics need to be changed or continued for longer. These results take 5-10 days to come back and you should discuss the need for additional antibiotics with your veterinarian at suture removal.

Facial nerve paralysis may be present, which causes an inability to close the eyelids on the affected side. This should not cause long term serious problems, however, if there seems to be an excessive discharge from the eye (either clear or cloudy) or your dog appears to be rubbing at the eye, please call for advice. Sometimes a superficial ulcer or infection could develop and cause these signs.