



Anal Sacculectomy

Please read the below instructions thoroughly and follow the post-op care routine as instructed.

Surgery to remove one or both of your pet's anal glands to provide relief from infections, abscesses, blockages, or tumors.

Important Pre-Surgery Requirements

Bloodwork is mandatory before surgery — no exceptions. If you cannot complete the bloodwork at least 48 hours before the scheduled surgery, please contact the director at Lsendra@CHEWac.org for case-by-case consideration. You can book this bloodwork as a nurse appointment (\$18)

Provided your pet does not have any open wounds and/or not experiencing significant pain: We recommend purchasing this product via Amazon (click [HERE](#)) or from CHEW for \$25. Bath your dog twice in the 7 days leading up to the surgery.

If you notice any signs of a skin infection (bumps, rashes, or pustules) on your pet, please schedule an exam before the surgery date. To ensure your pet's safety, surgery will be canceled if a skin infection is detected.

How to prepare your home for post-surgery care:

Here are some important tips for the post-surgery care:

- Bring someone with you when picking up your pet, this is very important to keep your pet calm during the ride home.
 - Have boiled chicken, rice, and pumpkin on hand in case your dog refuses regular food.
 - Prepare a comfortable sleeping area downstairs to avoid stair climbing. Bedding should be kept clean
 - Have ice or ice packs to reduce swelling, as well as hot compresses for later use, if needed.
 - Use gates or barricades to block access to stairs.
 - Make arrangements for time off from work or someone to check in on your dog daily for the first few weeks post-op.
 - Seromas are a common complication where fluid accumulates under the incision. Usually, the body reabsorbs it, but they can become large. To help healing, restrict your pet's activity and apply warm compresses. If swelling persists, contact CHEW or your primary vet.
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CRATE CONFINEMENT/PROTECTING THE SURGICAL SITE

Anesthesia may take 24 to 48 hours to wear off. Your pet may be groggy or whiny during this time. Keep your pet confined in a secure, quiet, and comfortable space. **We recommend a crate or a small room.** Isolate them from other pets and children while recovering.

AT HOME

We recommend having Royal Canin Gastrointestinal or Hill's I/D wet food on hand for your pet's recovery. These can be purchased online (chewy.com) or directly from CHEW Animal Hospital, depending on availability. Additionally, we suggest keeping Miralax at home in case your pet needs assistance with bowel movements - this can be bought over the counter at most pharmacies. Dosage instructions for Miralax will be provided on the day of surgery.

After your dog arrives home, you can give them 1/2 of his usual dinner. If they finish it and still appears hungry, you can offer the remaining portion approximately an hour later. To prevent nausea and vomiting, it may be helpful to divide the meal into smaller portions. Unless advised otherwise, your dog should have unrestricted access to water.

If your pet tolerates this, apply a cool compressed (ice pack wrapped in a thin dish towel) to the site for 10-15 minutes. This can be repeated 2-3 times a day.

There is a bump forming around the incision site: Seromas are a common complication where fluid accumulates under the incision. Usually, the body reabsorbs it, but they can become large. To help healing, restrict your pet's activity and apply warm compresses. If swelling persists, contact CHEW or your primary vet.

Commonly Prescribed Medications (may vary depending on your pet's needs)

Please follow the label instructions carefully and contact CHEW should you have any concerns.

- Carprofen or Meloxicam (dog) Onsior (cat): is a an anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is used to reduce pain and inflammation (soreness) following surgery in dogs. Give with food. **SIDE EFFECTS:** Stomach upset, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and gastrointestinal ulceration. NSAIDs should never be given in conjunction with steroids such as prednisone, prednisolone, or dexamethasone because the combination greatly increases the risk for gastrointestinal ulceration.
- Gabapentin: This medication is safe for both dogs and cats. This medication will aid in your pets pain and also act as a mild sedative. **SIDE EFFECTS:** Mild sedation and ataxia (wobbly or drunken gait) are the most common side effects of gabapentin in dogs. The severity of these signs will vary from dog to dog and also depend on the dose. Dogs sensitive to the drug may experience extreme lethargy and sleepiness.
- Trazodone: Trazodone can be used to facilitate confinement and relaxation during the post-surgical recovery period in dogs, reducing the chances of complications. **SIDE EFFECTS:** Lethargy, sedation, vomiting, diarrhea, panting, hyperactivity, ataxia, increased anxiety

INCISION CARE

Licking the incision can cause serious infection and surgery failure, necessitating additional treatment/surgery

Key instructions for post-surgery care:

- Regularly check the incision for any signs of redness, swelling, discharge, heat, pain, or separation.
- **Ensure your pet wears the hard, plastic e-collar at all times until the staples/sutures are removed in 2 weeks.** It's essential that your pet wears an e-collar (cone) during the recovery period to prevent licking, biting, or scratching at the surgical site. Without the cone, your pet may accidentally open the incision, leading to infection or delayed healing. We recommend keeping the cone on at all times, especially when your pet is unattended, to ensure a smooth and complication-free recovery.
- To protect the surgical area, please ensure your pet does not scoot on the floor, as this can cause irritation or damage to the incision. If you notice your pet attempting to scoot, redirect their attention and monitor them closely.

- Any abnormal discharge (thick, bloody, purulent, white, yellow, green, or foul-smelling) should be rechecked.
- Swimming or bathing should be avoided until the staples/sutures are removed and approved.
- Only apply treatments to the incision if directed by your veterinarian.
- Some bruising and swelling around the surgical site are normal.
- **If your pet is discharged with a wrap around the wrist, remove it one hour after picking up your pet to prevent venous occlusion that may cause the foot to swell.**
- (Cats) Letterbox – Use shredded paper or Yesterdays News instead of regular litter for 14 days.
- Seromas are a common complication where fluid accumulates under the incision. Usually, the body reabsorbs it, but they can become large. To help healing, restrict your pet's activity and apply warm compresses. If swelling persists, contact CHEW or your primary vet.

Soft cones or "donuts" are not sufficient for protecting the incision



Remove the compression wrap
45 minutes after you pickup



The bandage covering the incision absorbs post-surgery leakage and is not intended to prevent licking. It can stay on for up to 5 days but may come off sooner. Apply alcohol to the adhesive sides for easier removal.



A cone is essential to prevent your pet from licking the surgical site until it heals. Licking the incision can cause multiple setbacks, including a bone infection. **NO DONUTS!**

RECHECK APPOINTMENTS

Recheck 1: 2 weeks post-op. The first recheck appointment should be scheduled 2 weeks post-op for staple/suture removal (\$18) and examination for signs of skin infections. This appointment can be scheduled as a nurse appointment (\$18). Should you have any concerns about your pet's recovery, please schedule a doctor's appointment.

LIFE AFTER ANAL SACCULECTOMY SURGERY

Life after anal gland removal surgery (anal sacculectomy) generally brings significant improvements in your pet's comfort and quality of life. Once healed, your pet will no longer experience the discomfort associated with recurrent anal gland infections, impactions, or abscesses. They should feel relief from the urge to scoot, lick, or bite at the anal area, leading to improved hygiene and fewer odors.