



Caring for your pet after a Caesarean section

What to expect after your pet's Caesarean section and how to keep her safe and comfortable when she comes home.

Remember: If you have any concerns or questions, contact our emergency clinic or your daytime vet directly.

As your pet has had a general anaesthetic and major abdominal surgery, you'll likely notice that:

- She's drowsy but can still walk
- She has a wound which may be covered by a light dressing
- She has a bandage on one or more legs, meaning she's received medications through an intravenous drip (these would usually be removed shortly after returning home unless otherwise instructed)
- She may have shaved areas on her neck or legs
- A small amount of bloody fluid comes from her vagina (which is normal for a pet who's just given birth)

WHAT TO DO:

- Let her go to the toilet
- Settle her down in a quiet, calm area to help reduce anxiety and stress
- Offer a small meal and ensure access to fresh water
- Check the wound regularly and make sure your pet doesn't interfere with the area (we'd usually apply protective collars or shirts after surgery, but we don't always do this because collars/shirts sometimes prevent newborns from feeding properly)
- Give her any medications that the vet has prescribed
- Contact your daytime vet to organise a post-operative check — ideally to take place within 3 days of surgery. External stitches may need to be removed after 10-14 days — the vet will let you know if this is the case
- Make sure your pet gets their rest — this means no running, jumping or playing until an assessment with the vet / vet nurse at her final post-op check

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Don't leave the mother alone with her newborns until she's fully awake, can stand on her own and has shown interest in caring for them

Please contact your emergency clinic or your daytime vets if you see any of the signs below:

- Lethargy
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Reduced appetite
- Heavy vaginal bleeding, or smelly/discoloured vaginal discharge
- Pale gums
- Discharge from the wound
- Swelling, redness or pain at the wound