



SMALL ANIMAL ORTHOPAEDICS

Discharge Instructions Following Anal Sacculectomy

The anal glands tend to sit at the 4 and 8 o'clock in relation to the anus and have a duct each that empties into the rectum when the patient defecates. Over time, these ducts can become blocked, resulting in either recurrent irritation of the gland and in severe cases, can rupture from abscess formation. On rare occasions, these glands can be a location for neoplasia to develop and may be identified on routine examination by your veterinarian.

Anal sacculectomy is the surgical removal of one or both anal sacs. Indications for this procedure include anal sac masses or recurrent irritations associated with infection or inflammation.

Surgery entails a skin incision over the gland, dissecting out the gland, then tying off and resecting the duct where it enters the sphincter muscles. The remaining space is closed and fills in from healing over time.

Due to their close vicinity to the rectum, some dogs may experience the strong urge to lick or rub the surgery site.

An Elizabethan collar is required. Your pet accessing their wound is a very easy way to introduce infection and should be avoided.

Re-examination

A recheck 3-5 days after surgery is recommended for wound assessment.

A final recheck is recommended 12-14 days postop for a final assessment.

Medication

A course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication will be dispensed. Please follow the label instructions carefully and contact your veterinarian should you have any queries. Should there be any gastrointestinal signs (vomiting, diarrhoea) please stop the medication and contact your veterinarian for further advice.

Topical ointments such as antibiotic or local anaesthetic infused ointments may also be dispensed for additional relief at the surgery site.

LONG-TERM

Prognosis for this procedure is good for most patients. Due to the close relation to the rectum and faecal material, infection and wound breakdown are the most common complications encountered. These complications generally resolve with time and appropriate postoperative management.

Once the surgery sites have healed completely, your pet should no longer have issues associated with their glands.

Should need any further advice on longer term management or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your regular veterinarian.