

Post-op Care for Intestinal and Rectal Prolapse Surgeries.

During post-op care the veterinarian should educate the handlers and farmers on what they need to do during the recovery period and why they need to do it. This is of utmost importance as they will be the ones with full access to care for their animals. The veterinarian should communicate well and often enough with the farmer/handlers to help ensure compliance with post-op guidelines.

The following is a list of post op care guidelines:

- Check the patients' vital signs: temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate.
- It is important to ensure that the patient is carried to a safe, hazardless area. The best thing to do is to get the patient into a shady wide open space. The patient may need to remain isolated if they are receiving IV fluids from a fluid line.
- After Intestinal surgeries the patient should be monitored closely for vomiting during recovery.
- Analgesics should be provided as need.
- Hydration should be maintained with IV fluids and electrolyte
- Abnormalities should be monitored and corrected
- Small amount of water may be offered 8-12 hr after surgery, if no vomiting occurs small amounts of food maybe offered 12 to 24 hr after surgery, and should be fed a bland, low fat food, low fiber diet.
- Antibiotic should be discontinued within 2 to 6 hr of intestinal surgery unless peritonitis is present.
- After intestinal surgery clinical signs (depression, high fever, excessive abdominal tenderness, vomiting and or ileus) may be observed.
- Antibiotics are indicated for rectal ring method. Isolate the patient to avoid cannibalism. The tied off prolapse should slough off in 5-7 days.
- After a few weeks – 2 to 3 weeks- of these surgeries (excluding rectal ring procedure), the patient's diets and daily activities may return to normal.