

Post-Operative Anaesthesia

Ruminant Recovery

- Position animal in sternal recumbency with a pad placed under the mandible with the mouth end below the level of the larynx to drain saliva/regurgitant's and prevent aspiration.
- If animal does not show sign of getting light for longer than 20 minutes, reversal can be considered. Tolazoline 0.2 – 1.0 mg/kg can be given titrated to effect IV.
- Close observation should be continued to avoid the animal returning to sleep and potential danger of developing aspiration until the animal is on its feet.

Swine Recovery

- During recovery it is important to keep the pig in warm environment as due to their lack of body hair they are prone to develop hypothermia if left in cold surrounding.
- Observation the upper airway for signs of obstruction.

Post-Operative Management

- Monitor the animal vital signs (Heart Rate, Respiratory Rate, Temperature, Oxygen saturation) every 15 minutes until the animal has fully recovered (able to stand or remain in sternal position).
- Ensure owner/farmer/caretaker knows how to manage the surgical site/wound. Monitor the incision site for signs of infection. Clean daily and apply wound spray.
- Provide supportive care.
- Provide adequate post-operative pain relief.
- Monitor the animals' food and water intake after recovery from anaesthesia.

References

1. Lee L. Ruminant & Swine Anaesthesia [Internet]. [cited 23 September 2018]. Available from: <https://www.westernu.edu/mediafiles/veterinary/vet-anesthesia-analgesia/ruminant-swine-anesthesia.pdf>
2. Post-operative care for large animals (survival) surgeries [Internet]. Cm.nus.edu.sg. 2018 [cited 23 September 2018]. Available from: <https://cm.nus.edu.sg/attachments/204.01-post-operative-care-for-large-animals.pdf>

