



Sialadenectomy (Salivary Gland Removal)

Discharge Instructions: Dog

Provided by your Primary Veterinary Clinic on behalf of H&M VetSurg

Clinic Name/Phone: [Primary Clinic: Insert Name and Phone Number Here]

Patient: [Pet's Name] **Procedure:** Sialadenectomy (Salivary Gland Removal) **Surgeon:** Hani M Korani, DVM, DACVS-SA

Your dog has undergone a successful Sialadenectomy procedure performed by Dr. Korani. This surgery involves removing the affected salivary gland and its associated duct. Strict restriction of activity and diligent monitoring of the incision site for fluid accumulation are the most critical factors for successful healing.

1. General Recovery & Confinement

Your dog received general anesthesia and advanced pain control. They may be groggy, unsteady, and tired for the next 12–24 hours.

- **Confinement:** Your dog must be kept on **strict rest** in a secure, small space (crate, pen, or small room) for the first **10–14 days**.
- **Activity:** **No running, jumping, rough play, or quick head movements** (like lunging at a squirrel or shaking a toy). Limit all outdoor time to slow, controlled **leash walks** for elimination only.
- **Feeding & Water:** Offer small amounts of food and water when you arrive home. Due to the location of the surgery (neck/throat), ensure food is offered from a slightly **raised bowl** to minimize neck movement and strain while eating and drinking. If vomiting persists for more than 12 hours, please contact your primary veterinarian immediately.

2. Pain Management & Medications

Controlling pain is vital to ensure your dog is comfortable and rests properly, which aids healing.

- **Prescribed Medications:** Administer all medications exactly as prescribed by your primary veterinarian.
 - **Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID):** [Name of NSAID, e.g., Carprofen] – [Dose and Frequency]
 - **Pain Relief (Opioid/Other):** [Name of other medication, e.g., Tramadol/Gabapentin] – [Dose and Frequency]
 - **Antibiotic:** [Name of antibiotic] – [Dose and Frequency]
- **Crucial Warning: NEVER** give your dog human medication, including Tylenol (Acetaminophen), Advil (Ibuprofen), or Aleve (Naproxen). These are toxic and potentially fatal.

3. Incision and Suture Care

The incision is typically located on the underside of the neck.

- **Licking Prevention (E-Collar): The Elizabethan collar (cone) is mandatory.** Your dog **must** wear the cone **24 hours a day** for the full **10–14 day recovery period** until the sutures are removed/healed. Licking or rubbing the incision is the most common cause of infection and incision breakdown.
- **Daily Inspection:** Check the incision site twice daily.
 - **Normal:** Slight redness, mild swelling, and minor bruising are expected.
 - **Abnormal:** Contact your primary veterinarian immediately if you notice **foul odor, the incision opening up, or excessive redness and heat.**
- **Bathing:** Do not bathe your dog or allow the incision to get wet until after the final recheck appointment.

4. Seroma Management (Fluid Pocket)

Due to the nature of the surgery, it is **highly common** for fluid (serum/saliva) to accumulate under the skin at the surgery site. This is called a **seroma**.

- **Appearance:** A seroma appears as a soft, squishy, mobile pocket of fluid, often in the neck or chest area near the incision.
- **Monitoring:** While often harmless, seromas must be monitored. If the seroma is large or causing discomfort, it may need drainage at your primary clinic.
- **Compression/Cold Therapy:** Applying a **cold compress** (ice pack wrapped in a towel) for 10-15 minutes, 3-4 times daily for the first 3 days may help minimize swelling. After 72 hours, switch to a **warm compress** to help the body absorb the fluid. **Never apply ice directly to the skin.**



H&M VetSurg, PC

Hani Korani DVM, DACVS-SA

A seroma that becomes large, firm, or hot may indicate infection or a recurrent issue. If this occurs, contact your primary veterinarian immediately.

5. Emergency Warning Signs (Call Immediately)

Contact your primary veterinary clinic or nearest emergency clinic immediately if you observe:

- **Difficulty Breathing:** Severe labored breathing, gasping, or continuous choking/gagging.
- **Profuse Bleeding:** Uncontrolled or profuse bleeding from the incision site.
- **Pale or Blue Gums:** Sign of circulatory failure or shock.
- **Refusal to Eat/Drink:** Lack of appetite or thirst for more than 24 hours.

6. Follow-Up Appointments

Follow-up appointments are essential to ensure the incision is fully healed and to manage any seroma formation. Please schedule these with your primary veterinary clinic as soon as possible.

- **Suture Check/Removal (10–14 Days Post-Surgery):** This appointment is for assessing incision healing, monitoring seroma size, and removing any external sutures or staples.
- **Final Recheck (4–6 Weeks Post-Surgery):** A final check to ensure the affected area is stable and full activity can resume.

Post-Surgical Support

For all routine questions, medication refills, or urgent concerns, please contact **your primary veterinary clinic** at the number listed above.

H&M VetSurg (Specialist Contact): Dr. Korani is available for specific surgical complications or specialist consultation via your primary veterinarian.

- **Specialist Phone:** 415-853-7600
- **Specialist Email:** dr.korani@hmvetsurg.com