



Splenectomy (Spleen 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:** Splenectomy (Removal of the Spleen) **Surgeon:** Hani M Korani, DVM, DACVS-SA

Your dog has undergone a successful Splenectomy performed by Dr. Korani. This is a major abdominal surgery. **Strict confinement** and diligent monitoring, particularly for signs of internal bleeding or cardiovascular issues, are **absolutely critical** for the first 72 hours of recovery.

1. General Recovery & Confinement

The large abdominal incision requires protection from stress and movement for proper healing.

- **Confinement:** Your dog must be kept on **strict rest** in a secure, small space (crate, pen, or small room) for the entire **14-day recovery period**.
- **Activity:** **No running, jumping, climbing stairs, or vigorous play.** Limit all outdoor time to slow, controlled **leash walks** for elimination only.
- **Anesthesia Effects:** Expect your dog to be tired, unsteady, and possibly reluctant to eat for the first **12–24 hours**.

2. Pain Management & Medications

Controlling pain and preventing gastrointestinal upset are essential for recovery.

- **Prescribed Medications:** Administer all medications exactly as prescribed by your primary veterinarian.
 - **Pain Relief:** [Name of medication, e.g., Gabapentin/Tramadol] – [Dose and Frequency]
 - **Anti-Nausea:** [Name of anti-emetic, e.g., Cerenia] – [Dose and Frequency]
 - **Gastroprotectant (If prescribed):** [Name of medication, e.g., Sucralfate] – [Dose and Frequency]
 - **Antibiotic (If prescribed):** [Name of antibiotic] – [Dose and Frequency]
- **Crucial Warning:** **NEVER** give your dog human medication, especially NSAIDs (Advil, Aleve) or Tylenol (Acetaminophen).

3. CRITICAL Monitoring: Bleeding & Heart (First 72 Hours)

The primary risks after splenectomy are delayed internal bleeding from the splenic vessels or cardiac arrhythmias. These signs require **immediate emergency attention**.

- **Check Gums (MANDATORY):** Check your dog's gums **every 2–4 hours** for the first 72 hours.
 - **Normal:** Gums should be **pink and moist**. When pressed firmly, the color should return instantly (Capillary Refill Time < 2 seconds).
 - **Warning Sign:** If the gums become **pale, white, blue, or tacky/dry**, this indicates possible shock or blood loss. **Go to the emergency clinic immediately.**
- **Heart Rate:** Monitor your dog's resting heart rate (take pulse at inner thigh).
 - **Normal:** Usually 60–100 beats per minute (BPM) when resting.
 - **Warning Sign:** A sudden, sustained **fast heart rate** (over 140 BPM) or a very **slow heart rate** (under 50 BPM) should be reported to your primary veterinarian immediately.
- **Abdominal Appearance:** Watch for a sudden, noticeable **distension or bloating** of the abdomen, which can indicate internal bleeding.

4. Dietary Instructions

Feed small, easily digestible meals for the first few days to minimize stomach upset.

- **Food Type:** Feed only the **prescribed bland diet** (e.g., canned prescription GI diet, boiled chicken/rice, or ground beef/rice).
- **Feeding Schedule:** Feed **small amounts** (1/4 to 1/3 of a normal meal size) **3–4 times per day** for the first 3 days.
- **Transition:** If your dog is eating well and passing normal stools, gradually transition back to their normal diet starting on Day 4.
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea:** Report persistent vomiting (more than 2 episodes in 12 hours) or severe bloody diarrhea to your primary veterinarian immediately.

5. Incision and Suture Care (Abdominal)

The incision is located on the midline of the abdomen.

- **Licking Prevention (E-Collar):** The Elizabethan collar (cone) is mandatory. Your dog **must** wear the cone **24 hours a day** for the full **14-day recovery period** until the sutures are removed/healed.
- **Daily Inspection:** Check the incision site twice daily.
 - o **Normal:** Mild bruising, slight redness, and a small, firm ridge beneath the skin are expected.
 - o **Abnormal:** Contact your primary veterinarian immediately if you notice **foul odor, the incision opening up, or profuse drainage/discharge**.
- **Bathing:** Do not bathe your dog or allow the incision to get wet until after the final recheck appointment.

6. Emergency Warning Signs (Call Immediately)

Contact your primary veterinary clinic or nearest emergency clinic immediately if you observe **ANY** of the following:

- Sudden weakness or collapse.
- Pale, white, or blue gums.
- Uncontrolled or profuse bleeding from the incision.
- Severe difficulty breathing or persistent gagging/coughing.
- Intense abdominal pain (hunched posture, refusing to lie down comfortably).

7. Follow-Up Appointments

Follow-up appointments are mandatory to monitor healing and assess the overall recovery. Please schedule these with your primary veterinary clinic.

- **Incision Check/Suture Removal (10–14 Days Post-Surgery):** Necessary to evaluate external incision healing, remove sutures/staples, and authorize a gradual increase in activity.
- **Clinical Recheck (4 Weeks Post-Surgery):** A final check to ensure the dog is stable and recovering well.



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