



CAESARIAN SECTION



POST SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS

- Caesarian section is a major surgical procedure performed when a bitch is unable to give birth to puppies normally and when medical treatment for this has failed.
- A full general anaesthetic is required to remove the puppies.
- The anaesthetic and surgical technique is designed to ensure that there is as rapid a recovery as possible for mother and puppies.
- However, if the bitch has been in labour for several hours her recovery may be delayed and she may need extra attention and help with her litter.

Care at home

- As soon as the bitch is conscious and recovered from the anaesthetic, she will be sent home with her pups.
- Depending on her condition before the surgery she will probably still be a little sleepy and quiet once home.
- It is important that the puppies receive the first milk (colostrum) as it contains antibodies vital to protect puppies from disease.
- The bitch therefore needs to be closely monitored to ensure all the pups get this first milk.
- Sometimes milk production is delayed post caesarean section for about 48hours, we can provide you with replacement milk and feeders.
- If the puppies do not appear content this is often a sign that there is insufficient milk – if you have any doubts please contact us.
- Feeding:
 - Offer the bitch food within a few hours of getting her home.
 - Offer small amounts at frequent intervals to start with, do not let her over eat as she may vomit.
 - Food intake post whelping is usually 1½ times the normal intake.
 - By the 3rd or 4th week this can increase up to 3-4 times the normal intake.
 - Puppy foods are more concentrated than normal adult foods and can be fed to the bitch as a way to achieve high energy intakes.
- Bitches can often develop diarrhoea after whelping due to hormonal changes and eating the placenta – it is important to keep the environment clean to prevent any post op infections.
- Newborn pups are not able to regulate their own body temp and need to snuggle up to mum to keep warm. Should the ambient temperature drop it may be necessary to use a heat lamp or similar heat source

Rechecks

- Ideally the bitch and puppies should be checked a few days post op to ensure all is well.
- The skin sutures in your bitch will need to be removed 10 days post surgery.

