

# EAR CROP DISCHARGE

CROSWELL VETERINARY SERVICES  
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## Eating and drinking:

Animals that have undergone general anesthesia will be anxious and will typically want to eat and drink excessively when they return home. This can lead to over drinking and over eating, which can cause nausea and vomiting. Your puppy does need to eat and drink within the first 6 hours following the surgery; However, their normal meals should be split into smaller meals to avoid any nausea and/or vomiting.

## Most important while sutures are in:

- Keep the incisions clean and **DRY**.
- Keep puppy separate from all other pets and children.
- Do not allow anybody or anything pull on sutures.
- Puppy should be kept in a crate with the only exceptions of being let out for feeding, potty, or light exercise, training, grooming, and companionship.
- Please send photos of your puppy's healing, daily, for the first 5 days to the number listed at the top of the page 810-679-2770 by text message and this will help us help you with the aftercare process. Do not expect a response back during the evening or weekend, and give us 1-3 days to respond. Otherwise, if this is urgent, send the photos or videos and then call us at 810-679-3883 during business hours, and if this is afterhours and urgent or an emergency, press 8 when our afterhours service message starts and this will transfer to the Doctor on call. If you get a voicemail, leave a detailed message with your name, the pets name, your phone number, and the reason for your call and a call will be returned to you at the earliest convenience. There may be a fee of \$25-50 for this after hour service if the situation is not urgent or an emergency. If this is an emergency and the Doctor can't be reached, please take this paper with you to your nearest Emergency Veterinary Hospital. Otherwise, follow the discharge instructions as follows verbatim. Thank you.

## Days 1-4

If your pet was sent home with bandaging including the ears glued and taped up to a cup, leave this bandaging alone for the first 12-24 hours. If the bandaging gets wet or saturated with blood, it needs to be removed immediately. The outer most bandage is a stockinette, and looks similar to a sock. This needs to be removed first, usually between 12-24 hours following surgery or as directed by Crowell Veterinary Services. This stockinette needs to be disposed of, and not used again, and nothing in its replacement. The next layer is a cohesive bandage wrap, VetRap, and needs to be carefully removed by unwrapping. The next layer is a paper towel absorbent layer which will typically soak up any minor bleeding and serous discharge creating a small amount of crusting and sticking to the incision. This needs to be removed carefully and in the manner of a bandaid by peeling it away. For the inexperienced or faint of heart, this can be done 30-45 minutes after administering the pain and sedation medications, as this can be slightly uncomfortable to a puppy who has experienced more than average drainage. Under the paper towel bandage are two Telfa pads, non-stick medical gauze, and they are supposed to absorb the majority of the seepage. Peel these away as the paper towel gauze was removed. Leave the white tape and cup bandage for the next 14 days, unless it gets moisture under it or between it and the ears, at which point it must be removed IMMEDIATELY. There are videos to demonstrate this process on our website, [crowellvet.com](http://crowellvet.com)

Control any seeping or hemorrhaging by placing a small amount of cotton (can be a piece of a cotton ball) over any affected area along the incision. In the first 24 hours, do not peel the cotton off. Allow it to fall off on its own. Otherwise, beginning one day after surgery, begin cleaning with q tips and paper towels. Make sure to get in between all of the folds, all along the edge of the incision, down inside the bell and into the ear canal, **and most importantly, all around the**

**outermost lower portion of skin outside the ear.** All of the draining and discharge will accumulate on this region of skin, and will scald the skin over the lower most outer portion of the bell. **VERY IMPORTANT** As the discharge dries here, wearing gloves, use your finger nails to pick and gently rub the skin over this area clean and free from accumulating debris and discharge. Very carefully rub the scabbing, scaling, and accumulations off the healing edges as instructed by the veterinarian.

If there is no cup bandaging, gently stretch the ears upwards and away from the head in the same manner that you would straighten wrinkles out of a bed sheet. Continue this for 5-10 repetitions per ear 2-3 times daily until all scabbing has resided.

Apply NeoPredef powder (prescribed by a veterinarian only), or medicated gold bond powder to the healing edges 2-3 times daily as needed. If there is any white, yellow, or green discharge or excessive bleeding, contact the veterinarian who performed the procedure immediately. If care is required by a veterinarian closer to you, hold pressure over the bleeding edge with a dry hand-towel until you arrive to the nearest open clinic willing to see your puppy. I would suggest to the veterinarian to use epinephrine in a mixture of 1:3 normal saline to be dripped over the bleeding edge until hemostasis is controlled. I should be notified immediately of these circumstances. Please contact me at 810-679-3883 EXT 8 (Dr. Joel Parraghi) IMMEDIATELY 24/7 if this situation were to arise. **IF THE CUP COMES OFF, DO NOT TRY TO REPLACE IT. CALL OUR OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.**

### **Days 5 to Day 7**

White sutures need to be removed between days 7-10 to prevent excessive scarring. Many veterinary clinics will be apprehensive to provide this service because typically sutures would stay in a surgical site for 10-14 days. However, because our sutures on this ear crop go through the skin and cartilage, they will form keloids (abnormal cartilage scarring) or auricular chondromas (small circular bumps at the site of the suture that can grow and require surgery) if they are left in the upper portion of the ear for longer than they are needed. The sutures will begin to act as a foreign body, such as a splinter, and the immune system will cause a reaction to each suture spot. This is why daily photos text messaged to our clinic can help determine the most appropriate time to remove the sutures. Suture removal can be done by the owner or by returning to the veterinarian who performed the procedure at no cost. A video can be found online at **[croswellvet.com](http://croswellvet.com)** (the website that you used prior to setting up the appointment) to illustrate this procedure. Pink sutures in the lower bell can be removed between days 10-14. A video can also be found to illustrate this procedure as well on the internet, or it can be done by the veterinarian that performed the procedure. **IF THE CUP COMES OFF, DO NOT TRY TO REPLACE IT. CALL OUR OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.**

### **Days 10-14**

The pink sutures are removed and we begin posting. If the ears aren't completely healed, do not tape over top of the healing edge. Excessive possibly irreversible damage can be created with improper bandaging, so please contact the veterinarian who performed the surgery rather than attempting to bandage if you are uncomfortable with the procedure. NeoPredef powder should no longer be needed, however, continue the oral antibiotics as prescribed. The ears will need to be cleaned thoroughly with alcohol and cotton balls, and cotton tipped applicators can be used to clean the inside of the bell.

### **Posting the ear:**

Please follow the directions in the form at [croswellvet.com](http://croswellvet.com) under the "Forms" section "Ear Posting."

#### *Materials necessary:*

- Wooden disposable tongue depressors-should be available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). You will need between 10-20 total.
- Johnson 1 inch zonas tape- 12 count box available on amazon. Usually costs between \$16-\$25.
- 1/2 inch backer rod (can be found at most home improvement stores)
- Procedure of making the posts and posting procedure will be shown and covered by the veterinarian in person or by video.