



# MAINLIACHT SURGICAL DISCHARGE

## Post-operative guidance



Robert Murray

B. Sc (Hons) Biomed, DVM (Hons), MRCVS

Complex Small Animal Surgery  
Orthopaedic and Soft Tissue

- Complex Surgery
- Cruciate Disease
- Patellar Luxation
- Fracture Repair
- BOAS / TECA-LBO

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### Salivary Gland Discharge Sheet

#### Procedure Summary

Your pet has undergone surgery to remove one or more salivary glands. This procedure is most commonly performed due to leakage of saliva into surrounding tissues, usually caused by damage or dysfunction of the salivary ducts. This results in a soft swelling, often under the tongue or along the upper neck.

Salivary glands produce saliva to aid swallowing and digestion. When a duct is damaged, saliva can accumulate in surrounding tissues rather than draining normally into the mouth. Surgical treatment involves removal of the affected gland and associated duct tissue to prevent recurrence.

Removal of one or more salivary glands does not typically result in a dry mouth, as multiple glands are present and compensate for this loss.

Mild swelling, bruising, and discomfort at the surgical site are expected in the early post-operative period.

#### Complications

Common and expected complications include mild swelling, bruising, and discomfort at the surgical site.

Occasional complications include wound irritation, local infection, or fluid accumulation.

Less common complications include wound breakdown or delayed healing.

Rare but serious complications include recurrence of salivary swelling if functional gland tissue remains, or complications associated with drain placement.



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### Medications

Medication	How to Give	Duration	Purpose
Antibiotic	As prescribed	As prescribed	Infection prevention
NSAID	As prescribed with food	As prescribed	Pain relief and anti-inflammatory
Additional analgesia	As prescribed	Short course	Post-operative comfort

All medications should be given exactly as prescribed. Anti-inflammatory medications should be given with food and may occasionally cause vomiting or diarrhoea. If this occurs, contact the practice for advice. Do not administer any human medications.

### Wound Care

The surgical site should be kept clean and dry. The wound must not be bathed or interfered with.

A dressing may be present in the early post-operative period. This should be kept dry and allowed to fall away naturally unless advised otherwise. If the dressing becomes wet, slips, or is removed prematurely, advice should be sought.

Sutures may be dissolvable or require removal depending on the procedure. The wound should be checked daily for swelling, redness, discharge, or opening.



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An Elizabethan collar or inflatable collar should be used to prevent interference with the wound. Care should be taken to ensure that collars do not cause pressure on the surgical site.

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### Drain Management

In some cases, a surgical drain may be present. A small amount of discharge from the drain site is expected and can be gently blotted with clean material.

Drains are typically removed a few days after surgery. It is important that the drain is not interfered with, as damage may require further intervention.

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### Feeding and General Care

Soft food can be offered from the evening following surgery. Normal eating, drinking, and urination should resume quickly. Defaecation may be delayed for a few days.

A soft diet is recommended for at least two weeks. Hard foods, bones, sticks, and chew items should be avoided during the recovery period.

Fresh water should be available at all times.

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### Activity and Exercise

Strict exercise restriction is not usually required, but activity should be controlled during the early healing period. Running, jumping, and rough activity should be avoided for at least two weeks.

A harness is recommended instead of a collar to avoid pressure on the neck. Activity should be supervised while any protective collar is in place.



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### Monitoring at Home

Close monitoring is important during recovery. Your pet should remain comfortable and gradually return to normal behaviour.

The surgical site should be observed for swelling, discharge, or signs of irritation. Any changes in appetite, behaviour, or comfort should be noted.

### When to Contact the Practice Immediately

Contact the practice without delay if you notice swelling, discharge, or opening of the wound, interference with a drain, reduced appetite, lethargy, or any other concerning signs.

### Follow-Up and Prognosis

A post-operative check is typically recommended within a few days, particularly if a drain is present, followed by a further examination at approximately two to three weeks.

The prognosis following salivary gland removal is generally good. Recurrence is uncommon but may occur if residual functional salivary tissue remains.

If you have any concerns at any stage, please contact your veterinary practice.

Kind regards

*Robert Murray*

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B.Sc (Hons) Biomed, DVM (Hons), MRCVS  
Veterinary Surgeon