

# AFTERCARE GUIDE

## TECA SURGERY



### TOTAL EAR CANAL ABLATION AND LATERAL BULLA OSTEOTOMY

A care guide for your pet  
undergoing surgery



#### About the procedure

This is a surgery that involves the removal of a chronically diseased external ear canal (i.e. TECA) and the opening up of the middle ear cavity to allow for the removal of infected debris (i.e. LBO). The purpose of the surgery is to cure a chronic and recurrent deep-seated infection of ear that has not responded to medical (drug) therapy.

The TECA/LBO surgery is performed in very close proximity to the facial nerve. This is stretched slightly so that it is protected during the procedure.

Occasionally (< 5% of cases) a short-term facial paresis may develop as a result of this stretching. This will be evident by a drooping upper eyelid and lip on the same side as the surgery and occasionally an absent blink response. In the unlikely event that facial paresis develops, it usually resolves within the first one or two weeks.

Your pet will be discharged wearing an Elizabethan collar. This will protect the wound against self-trauma and will therefore allow the wound to heal as quickly as possible. **Please leave this on at all times.** If you choose to use an inflatable collar rather than the plastic collar provided, please ensure the patient cannot access the wound as these collars tend to be less efficient.

A (bloody) discharge from the wound site occasionally develops and some swelling may also be apparent within the first few days of the surgery being undertaken. Please do not touch the wound site despite this. Call us in the first instance if you have any concerns.

#### At home recovery

- Please do not feed your pet after 10pm the night before the suture removal appointment.
- We usually recommend that the Elizabethan collar be left on for 2 days after suture removal to prevent self-trauma to the wound immediately after suture removal

#### Follow Up

- A full report of the treatment your pet has received has been sent to your own vet.
- An appointment will be arranged for your pet in 2 weeks for suture removal. This may require sedation/anaesthesia, but in many cases this is not necessary.
- If at any time you are concerned about your pet's recovery, please contact us directly for advice (even after hours) as your own vet may not be familiar with this particular procedure.



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### KEEP TRACK OF THEIR PROGRESS

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Day 1

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Day 2

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Day 3

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Day 4

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Day 5

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Day 6

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Day 7

### HAVE A CONCERN?

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.