

## Frequently Asked Questions-Parotid Duct Surgery

**What kind of care is needed after surgery?** An antibiotic eye drop will need to be administered 4 times a day for approximately 2 weeks. Tacrolimus drops will be continued after surgery until the first recheck. Depending on the patient's response to surgery, these drops may be needed longer. Three oral medications will be sent home as well (a pain medication, an anti-inflammatory, and an antibiotic). These will need to be administered 1-2 times a day for 10 days following surgery. Moderate discharge and/or a blood-tinged discharge from the eye may be present for 10-14 days that will require daily cleansing using a warm water-soaked cotton ball. During the first week, small treats should be offered frequently throughout the day to encourage saliva flow. Facial swelling may be present following surgery, which should resolve within 7-10 days. If the swelling is severe, a pack of frozen peas may be applied to the area in intervals based on what your pet will allow.

**How long will my pet have to wear the e-collar?** Your pet MUST wear a protective collar AT ALL TIMES for 10 days. This is a necessary part of the post-operative treatment. The incisions must be allowed to heal without rubbing. We understand this is a very difficult adjustment for some pets but most adapt after 24-48 hours. PLEASE DO NOT ALTER/TRIM BACK OR REMOVE THE COLLAR.

**Are there sutures that need to be removed?** All sutures are dissolvable and do not need to be removed. The sutures will begin to dissolve 5-7 days after surgery, and will be completely dissolved within 3-4 weeks.

**Are there any complications I should watch for after surgery?** Any time there is an incision made there is always a risk of infection. For this reason, it is important to follow our post-operative treatment recommendations sent home. Since saliva contains minerals, a buildup of minerals can occur on the eyelids and potentially the cornea. If this occurs, treatment with an additional eye drop may be needed long term, or a diet change may be necessary. Other complications associated with this surgery are usually related to self-trauma (rubbing the incision too soon). This is why it is absolutely necessary to keep the protective collar on at all times during the recommended period. Some dogs may require wearing the collar for a longer period of time than originally recommended. Two recheck appointments are included at no charge following surgery. If complications do arise, additional rechecks, surgery, and/or medications may be necessary.

**Will having the surgery guarantee that my pet will not need eye drops in the future?** NO. The need for long term treatment with drops following surgery varies and depends on the patient's response to surgery. It is possible that your pet may need to stay on tear stimulating eye drops (Tacrolimus) despite having this surgery. If corneal pigment is present before surgery, an eye drop will be needed to help resolve this and may be needed long-term.

**What are the side effects of pursuing this surgery?** The major side effect of this surgical procedure is an excessively wet face. Because this procedure involves transposing a salivary duct to the eye, the duct will now excrete saliva anytime the patient thinks about or smells food. In some food-motivated patients, this can be extreme, and for those patients with a shorter muzzle or wrinkled facial skin, the potential to develop a moist dermatitis in the facial folds may be increased.

I have read and understand the above information. The risks and complications associated with surgery have been explained to me to my understanding and satisfaction. I understand that I am responsible for asking any questions I have about this surgical procedure, aftercare instructions, and possible complications associated with this surgical procedure prior to pursuing surgery. In signing below, I understand and accept these risks.

X \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_