***POST OPERATIVE CARE AFTER***

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***ABDOMINAL LOPAROTOMY SURGERY***

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| **AFTER SURGERY CARE**  The most important aspects of after surgery care are “recovery and monitoring”. The recovery and monitoring period includes everything from the time the anesthesia/surgery is ended until the animal is alert, ambulatory and all vitals have returned to normal ranges.  Immediately after surgery the incision site should be sprayed with and antibiotic wound spray, if possible a water resistant wound spray and finally a lavicidal spray to aid in the prevention of myiasis. All animals TPR and mm/CRT should be accessed immediately post-surgery, then every 10 to 15 minutes as needed until animal start to recover from the anaesthesia. All post surgical and monitoring information should be properly recorded. Animals recovering from anaesthesia should be separated from other animals and placed in a holding pen with clean, warm, dry bedding and.  **AFTER CARE FOR THE SURGERY PERFORMED**  Immediately after surgery the animal’s incision site was sprayed using Tetravet (Oxytetracycline Hydrochloride), then Aluspray (silver sulfadiazine & aluminium) was used as a water resistant covering and then the area around the surgical site was sprayed with a Larvicide.  The animal was then carried to a holding pen where it was housed with others sheep. Our sheep was then placed in to sternal recumbency on a heating pad and warm towels were placed over its body to combat hypothermia. Its vital signs were monitored and recorded every 15mins until the animal showered signs or recovery. Its TPR and mm/CRT were monitored along with its rumen contraction in other to evaluate rumen motility. This is because rumen stasis is a fatal problem in ruminants after abdominal surgeries. After 30 to 45 minutes after surgery the animal’s vital signs were approaching normal and it started to show sign of arousal. About 1 hour after surgery the animal was fully aroused and moving around. |
| **POST OPERATIVE CARE**  Post operative pain treatment: Post-Op analgesia/NSAIDs are very important following a surgical process such as an exploratory Loparotomy. This is because pain and inflammation persist at the surgical site for days post surgery. Animals should be treated 3-5 days post surgery or until the swelling, pain and inflammation subsides.  **POST-OP PAIN MANAGEMENT**  The animal was given the first dose of Banamine (flunixin meglumine) day 1 post surgery, IM and a follow up treatment was given on day 2 as well. No swelling was observed around the incision site so the banamine treatment was discontinued after day 2.  **The withdrawal period for Banamine is 12 days.**  **POST-OP ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT**  Expolratory laporatomy is suppose to be an aseptic procedure, but in order to prevent any accidental contamination antibiotics should be administered post-op to help fight off any bacterial infection that might arise. Therefore antibiotic should be given for 3 to 5 days post surgery.  The sheep was given the 2nd dose of long acting Penicillin-Streptomycin (LA Pen Strep) on day 3 post surgery and the 3rd dose on day 6 post surgery.  **The withdrawal period for Penicillin-Streptomycin is 21 days.**  Sutures should be removed at 2–3 weeks post surgery. At 10–14 days, the incision is still vulnerable to trauma. A popped incision may occur if sutures are removed at this time. |
| **POST-OP COMPLICATIONS**  Hernia repair is an invasive surgical procedure therefore a lot of post surgical complications can arise. The following are complications that could arise following surgery:   * Superficial dehiscence. * Myiasis * Hemorrhage * Risk of infection of the surgical site * Hypothermia * peritonitis * adhesions |
| **CLIENT ADVICE**  The client should be given advice with respect to management of the incision site which includes spraying with topical antibiotics and larvicide spray daily to prevent fly strike and bacterial contamination along with general observation of the incision site for swellings and suture removal which if noted they should contact the veterinarian. |