



Animal health care service II

Learning Guide 39

Unit of Competence: Assist Animal Surgical Operation

Module Title: Assisting Animal Surgical Operation

LG Code: AGR AHC2 M12 L03 LG39

TTLM Code: AGR AHC2 TTLM 0919v1

LO3 Provide post-operative patient care

This learning guide is developed to provide you the necessary information regarding the following content coverage and topics –

- Transfer patient to the recovery area
- Provided food, water and resting area for patient
- Observe and recorded vital signs
- Report post-surgical complications

This guide will also assist you to attain the learning outcome stated in the cover page.

Specifically, upon completion of this Learning Guide, you will be able to –

- Transfer patient to the recovery area
- Provided food, water and resting area for patient
- Observe and recorded vital signs
- Report post-surgical complications

Learning Instructions:

1. Read the specific objectives of this Learning Guide.
2. Follow the instructions described in number 3 to 20.
3. Read the information written in the “Information Sheets 1”. Try to understand what are being discussed. Ask you teacher for assistance if you have hard time understanding them.
4. Accomplish the “Self-check 1” in page 5.
5. Ask from your teacher the key to correction (key answers) or you can request your teacher to correct your work. (You are to get the key answer only after you finished answering the Self-check 1).
6. If you earned a satisfactory evaluation proceed to “Information Sheet 2”. However, if your rating is unsatisfactory, see your teacher for further instructions or go back to Learning Activity #1.
7. Submit your accomplished Self-check. This will form part of your training portfolio.
8. Read the information written in the “Information Sheet 2”. Try to understand what are being discussed. Ask you teacher for assistance if you have hard time understanding them.
9. Accomplish the “Self-check 2” in page 7.
10. Ask from your teacher the key to correction (key answers) or you can request your teacher to correct your work. (You are to get the key answer only after you finished answering the Self-check 2).
11. Read the information written in the “Information Sheets 3. Try to understand what are being discussed. Ask you teacher for assistance if you have hard time understanding them.
12. Accomplish the “Self-check 3” in page 9.

13. Ask from your teacher the key to correction (key answers) or you can request your teacher to correct your work. (You are to get the key answer only after you finished answering the Self-check 3).

LO3 Provide post-operative patient care

Information Sheet-1	Transfer patient to the recovery area
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ANESTHETIC AND POSTOPERATIVE RECOVERY

- After the completion of surgical operation, the patient will be transferred in to recovery room.
- The investigator and veterinarian share responsibility for ensuring that postsurgical care is appropriate.
- An important component of postsurgical care is observation of the animal and intervention as required during recovery from anesthesia and surgery.
- The intensity of monitoring necessary will vary with the species and the procedure and might be greater during the immediate **anesthetic recovery** period than later in **postoperative recovery**.

Anesthetic Recovery

- ✚ Particular attention should be given to thermoregulation, cardiovascular and respiratory function, and postoperative pain or discomfort during recovery from anesthesia”.
- ✚ The anesthetic recovery period may last from minutes to hours.
- ✚ Animals should be placed into a clean recovery area in sternal or lateral recumbency.
 - Sternal recumbency is preferred.
- ✚ Emergency drugs and equipment must be available in the recovery area.
- ✚ During anesthetic recovery, the animal’s body temperature should be supported with an approved, well-maintained heating device (e.g. recirculating water heating pad, or heat lamp).
- ✚ To avoid burning, be cautious that the heating device is not too hot or too close to the animal. As during the procedure, temperature, respiratory rate and heart rate should be monitored, evaluated, and documented during the recovery period.
- ✚ Recovering animals should not be in the enclosure with conscious animals.
- ✚ Animals in the recovery area should be **continuously** monitored by at least one staff member.
- ✚ Only when animals have regained all postural reflexes and are ambulatory (can walk well on their own) should they be left alone in their regular, freshly-cleaned housing.

Postoperative Recovery

After anesthetic recovery, monitoring is often less intense but should include

Attention to basic biologic functions of intake and elimination and behavioral signs of postoperative pain”. Depending on the surgical procedure, the postoperative recovery period may last from days to weeks.

Self-Check -1	Written Test
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. Write the component of postsurgical care observation?(4pts)
2. What are the special attentions given for the animal during post-operative recovery?(4pts)

Note: Satisfactory rating - 8 points

Unsatisfactory - below 8 points

Answer Sheet

Score = _____
Rating: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Monitoring Vital Signs

The veterinarian *must* continuously monitor the animal patient's basic physiological function for the duration of the procedure from induction through recovery.

At a minimum, the following vital signs are required to be monitored with written documentation.

- Respiratory Rate (RR) can be assessed by watching the rising and falling of the chest, by monitoring end-tidal CO₂, or by artificial ventilation and/or stethoscope.
- Heart rate (HR) may be monitored manually (stethoscope).
- Body temperature should be measured using a digital thermometer or rectal probe
 - Hypothermia often occurs due to anesthesia induced vasodilatation and from surgery via opened body cavities.
 - During any surgical procedure the animal's body temperature should be maintained by:
 - ✓ Heat lamp,
 - ✓ Water heating pad,
 - ✓ Forced air warming or by
 - ✓ Covering the animal with warm drapes/towels.

Veterinarians may assist in choosing an appropriate method for your species.

Self-Check -3	Written Test
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. Write the vital signs observed and monitored(5pts)

Note: Satisfactory rating - 10 points

Unsatisfactory - below 10 points

Answer Sheet

Score = _____
Rating: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. _____

 _____.

During the post-surgical period, animals must be appropriately monitored for signs of pain and/or distress.

✚ In most species, signs of pain include

- Decreased activity
- Gait abnormalities
- Abnormal posture
- Increased attention to surgical site

✚ The cardinal signs of infection including

- Heat
- Pain
- Swelling
- Redness
- Exudation.

✚ The most common post surgical complications are:

- Hemorrhage
- Fever
- Shock
- Bronchopneumonia
- Wound infection
- Acute kidney injury
- Abscess
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Suture breakage
- Suture hernia
- etc

✚ Report for the veterinarian for any abnormal medical condition.

✚ If the health of the animal is questionable, the veterinarian should be notified for treatment recommendations, or to help assist in determining clinical endpoints for the animal (i.e. euthanasia).

After surgery, animals must be monitored and given appropriate veterinary treatment during anesthetic and postoperative recovery.

Self-Check -3	Written Test
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. List all signs of pains (3pts).
2. Write the cardinal signs of infection (3pts).
3. Discuss common post surgical complications (4pts).

Note: Satisfactory rating - 10 points

Unsatisfactory - below 10 points

Answer Sheet

Score = _____
Rating: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

