



**Description:** Perineal herniorrhaphy is defined as the surgical repair of a hernia occurring in the perineal area. Perineal hernias occur when the pelvic diaphragm muscles fail to support the rectal wall, allowing persistent rectal distention and impaired defecation. In addition, other organs, such as the urinary bladder, may become trapped in the hernia and lead to a life-threatening emergency. The cause of the pelvic diaphragm weakening is poorly understood, but is believed to be associated with male hormones. Castration of intact males affected with this condition is therefore recommended to reduce recurrence.

**Indications:** Perineal herniorrhaphy is indicated to repair perineal hernias.

#### **Postoperative Care**

**Medication:** Give any prescribed medication as directed. If your pet is straining to defecate, then stool softeners may be necessary.

**Diet:** Feed normal dog or cat food, but do not allow your pet to have table scraps or treats. The goal of dietary therapy is to have a soft, semi-formed stool. If constipation or diarrhea occurs, then dietary modifications or medication may become necessary.

**Exercise:** Limit exercise to short leash walks until the sutures are removed, and do not allow running, jumping, or playing with other pets for three weeks.

**Signs of potential problems:** Observe your pet for problems, and contact us if you notice any of the following:

- Excessive straining to urinate or defecate
- Swelling or drainage from the incision
- Prolapse of rectum
- Difficulty urinating

**Recommended follow-up:** Please schedule an appointment for suture removal 7 to 10 days after surgery. Please contact us immediately if any of the above problems are noted.

**Prognosis:** The prognosis for improved comfort, decreased straining to defecate, and improved quality of life is generally quite good following perineal herniorrhaphy. Potential complications following surgery may include rectal prolapse, fecal incontinence, wound infections, and recurrence of the hernia.

Your pet's recovery and well-being are our primary concerns, so please do not hesitate to call and speak with a surgical technician or surgeon if there are any questions regarding your pet's recovery.