



Recovery



What happens during recovery?

If your pet suffers a significant injury, or undergoes important surgery, its body will react with a “stress response” designed to protect against the effects of shock. Although your pet may appear to be inactive, its energy requirement actually increases greatly at this time.

If extra energy is not supplied through its food, the animal will generate it by breaking down first its fat stores, and then its lean muscle tissue and organ tissues. These tissues rapidly disappear and body weight can fall dramatically – what started as a protective response becomes harmful in the long term.

Unfortunately this accelerated malnutrition leads to a decline in appetite just when the body needs more protein for wound healing and to maintain adequate immunity. The early intake of adequate amounts of nutrients is vital in improving the clinical response of recovering patients.

Severe malnutrition can also develop during a long-standing illness, and will delay recovery.

Factors that can delay the recovery of pets after injury, surgery or illness include:

INSUFFICIENT INTAKE OF FOOD

Until enough food is eaten to satisfy the need for energy, vital proteins (needed for wound healing and immunity) will be “burned” to provide energy instead.

INCORRECT BALANCE OF NUTRIENTS

Food needs to be rich in fats and proteins, because the body’s ability to use starches and sugars effectively to supply energy is temporarily reduced. Extra amounts of specific micronutrients are also needed.

BACTERIAL INFECTION

Poor immunity reduces the ability to fight infection. In particular, inadequate nourishment of the cells lining the digestive tract makes them unable to resist the entry of bacteria from the intestines, which can lead to generalised infection (sepsis) in the body.

ENVIRONMENT

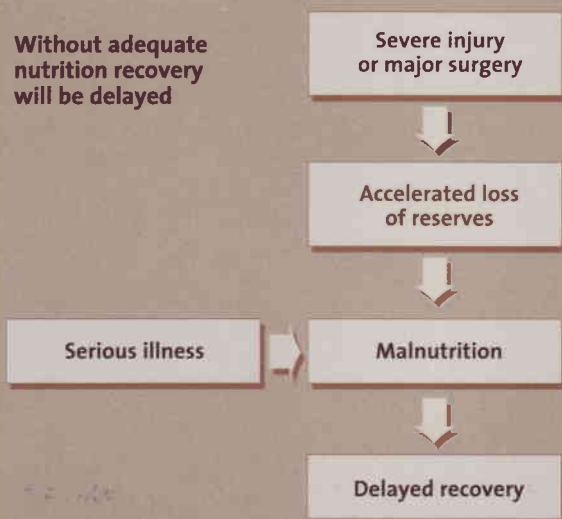
Your pet should be allowed to convalesce in a warm, dry, draught-free area to avoid hypothermia (which is more likely when malnourished and inactive) and not disturbed unnecessarily, to avoid further stress which will hinder recovery.

Recognising warning signs during recovery

A variety of signs can indicate that your pet is not making a good recovery. These may include:

- Failure to regain weight
- Further weight loss
- Poor appetite, for longer than 3 days
- Depression/lethargy
- Wound remains swollen, red and painful
- Wound bleeds, discharges, becomes infected or fails to heal (sutured wounds may re-open)
- Increased breathing rate
- Increased thirst

Without adequate nutrition recovery will be delayed



IMPORTANT

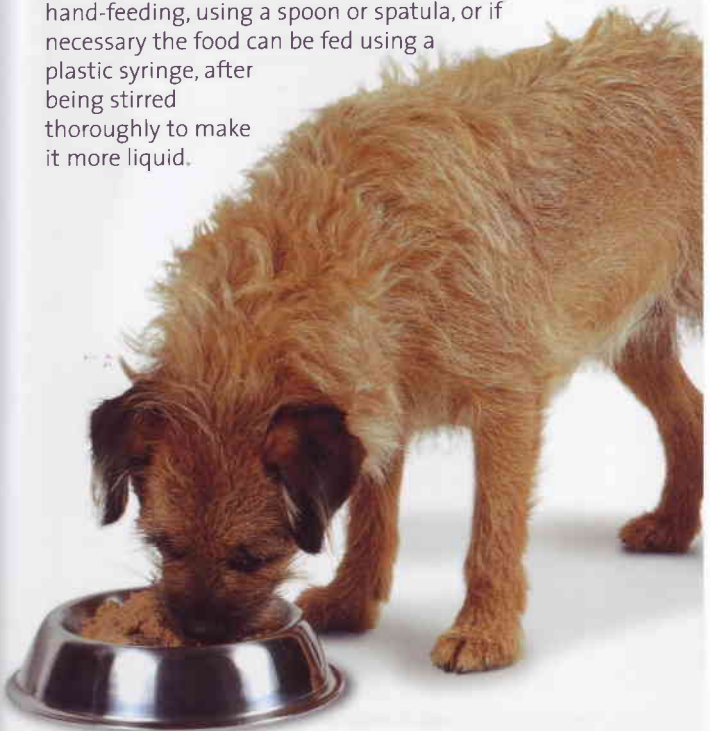
Rapid weight loss, particularly when combined with lack of appetite, may indicate a stress response requiring attention. If you are in any doubt, please consult your veterinary surgeon.

Helping your pet to recover

There are a number of ways in which you can help the recovery of your pet. These include giving medication at the correct times, attending to wounds and dressings as directed and providing plenty of tender loving care. Ask your vet about an appropriate recuperation programme for your pet.

Correct feeding is essential. If the digestive tract is still working normally, nutrition should ideally be given by mouth, – not least because nutrients are made directly available to the cells of the digestive tract thereby preserving their health. But after injury, surgery or serious illness some dogs and cats need encouragement to eat, and you can help them begin eating again.

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine/Feline a/d™ is ideal for this purpose. This special canned food is highly palatable and most dogs and cats will eat it readily from their feeding bowl. It should be fed for 6-8 weeks to ensure an uncomplicated recovery. Where some encouragement to eat is needed, the food's pâté-like consistency allows hand-feeding, using a spoon or spatula, or if necessary the food can be fed using a plastic syringe, after being stirred thoroughly to make it more liquid.



Management and control of pets during recovery

Depending on individual needs, your vet may recommend medication or a surgical dressing, or some special therapeutic procedure. However, adequate nutritional support is vital for the recovery of all pets. During recovery food should be highly palatable, highly digestible and have a high energy content to meet the pet's increased energy requirement.

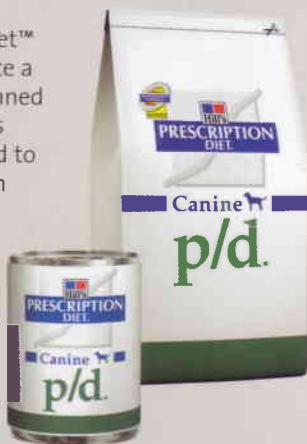
Hill's provides a range of products specially formulated for pets that need help with recovery from injury, surgery or illness.



Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine/Feline a/d™ is a unique, highly palatable, energy dense formulation in which highly digestible protein and fat are

combined with increased amounts of specific amino acids, vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and minerals to help stimulate healing, promote tissue repair, maintain the immune system and avoid complications during recovery. Its consistency allows great versatility in feeding, including assisted feeding.

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine p/d™ constitute a complete range of canned and dry foods for dogs specifically formulated to aid their recovery from surgery and from debilitating disorders, especially after the early acute phase of recovery.



Owner's checklist

HollyOak
Veterinary surgery
IMPINGTON 01223 232111
www.HollyOakVets.co.uk

- ✓ Ensure that wounds are kept clean and dry
- ✓ Don't allow your pet to interfere with wounds or dressings – a special collar may need to be fitted
- ✓ Feed only the pet food recommended by your vet, in the amounts advised
- ✓ Give the recommended medication at the correct times
- ✓ Provide your pet with a warm, comfortable area in which to recuperate
- ✓ Monitor your pet's progress and if there are signs of further illness, or changes in your pet's behaviour, seek advice from your vet immediately

FEEDING GUIDE

All Hill's products are extremely palatable foods that are eagerly accepted by most pets. However, when convalescing, your pet may have a reduced appetite or be less willing to eat. Assisted feeding may then be required. If your pet resists a change to another food after feeding Canine/Feline a/d:



- Introduce the new food gradually – at first it can be given a covering of Canine/Feline a/d – adding more of the new food each day until you have completed the change-over
- Warm canned food to body temperature – but no hotter – before feeding
- If your pet refuses to eat for more than 48 hours, discuss the problem with your vet

Remember our food is 100% Guaranteed – we promise complete satisfaction or we buy it back.

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