

CLINICAL GUIDELINES FOR Postoperative Nutrition Management



Over 90% of dog owners are worried about occurrence of gastrointestinal upset after surgery and are willing to start a proactive management plan recommended by their veterinarian.¹



From beginning to end, each step of your surgical protocol can influence development of postoperative nausea, vomiting, and intestinal dysbiosis and this impact needs to be considered for comprehensive patient management.

- **Fasting:** Fasting pets for as little as 12 hours has been shown to have a significant, negative impact on gastrointestinal tract motility.²
- **Pre-medication:** Many pain medications, particularly opioids, can produce mild to severe gastrointestinal side effects including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, and ileus.³
- **General anesthesia:** Up to 33% of dogs experience perioperative or postoperative GI side effects associated with general anesthesia.⁴
- **Antibiotics:** Peri and postoperative antibiotic use in dogs has been shown to induce intestinal dysbiosis that may not fully resolve even 3 months post-surgery.⁵



Proactively implementing a postoperative feeding plan, even for routine procedures including spays, neuters, or dental prophylaxis, focused on high digestibility and microbiome support helps improve wound healing and promote gastrointestinal recovery after surgery.⁶



- Great-tasting, highly digestible nutrition clinically proven to help resolve diarrhea and support recovery.
- Fortified with ActivBiome+ Digestion, a proprietary blend of prebiotic fibers clinically shown to rapidly activate the gut microbiome to support digestive health.

References:

1. Kraus BLH, Cazlan C. Assessment of Dog Owner Concern Regarding Peri-operative Nausea and Vomiting and Willingness to Pay for Anti-emetic Treatment. Front Vet Sci. 2019 Aug 22;6:264.
2. Sanderson JJ, Boysen SR, McMurray JM, Lee A, Stillion JR. The effect of fasting on gastrointestinal motility in healthy dogs as assessed by sonography. J Vet Emerg Crit Care (San Antonio).
3. Nolan A, The Pharmacology of Analgesic Drugs in Small Animals. WSAVA World Congress Proceedings 2004. Accessed on VIN June 2025
4. Torrente C, Vigueras I, Manzanilla EG, Villaverde C, Fresno L, Carvajal B,

- Fiñana M, Costa-Farré C. Prevalence of and risk factors for intraoperative gastroesophageal reflux and postanesthetic vomiting and diarrhea in dogs undergoing general anesthesia. J Vet Emerg Crit Care (San Antonio).
5. Collier AJ, Gomez DE, MacIver MA, Verbrugge A, Weese JS, Blois SL (2025) Assessing changes to the fecal microbiota in dogs undergoing elective orthopedic surgery: A preliminary investigation. PLoS One 20(6): e0325163.
6. Groves, Ellie. "Post-Operative Feeding in Companion Animals." Veterinary Practice, 26 July 2022

Implementing Hill's Prescription Diet i/d in Postoperative Nutrition Planning



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Puppy Turkey 13 oz can

Growth less than 4 months (Pregnancy weeks 7 - 9)					Growth 4-9 months (Pregnancy weeks 5 - 6)					Growth 10-12 months (Pregnancy weeks 1 - 4)				
Weight of Dog (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days	Weight of Dog (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days	Weight of Dog (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
2	1/2	2	3	4	2	3/8	2	3	3	2	1/3	1	3	3
5	1	3	5	7	5	3/4	3	4	6	5	2/3	2	4	5
8	1 1/3	4	7	10	8	1 1/4	4	7	9	8	1	3	5	7
10	1 2/3	5	9	12	10	1 1/3	4	7	10	10	1	3	5	7
15	2 1/4	7	12	16	15	1 3/4	6	9	13	15	1 1/2	5	8	11
20	2 3/4	8	14	20	20	2 1/3	7	12	17	20	1 3/4	6	9	13
30	3 3/4	12	19	27	30	3	9	15	21	30	2 1/2	8	13	18
40	4 2/3	14	24	33	40	3 3/4	12	19	27	40	3	9	15	21
50	5 1/2	17	28	39	50	4 1/2	14	23	32	50	3 2/3	11	19	26
60	6 1/4	19	32	44	60	5 1/4	16	27	37	60	4 1/4	13	22	30
70	7	21	35	49	70	6	18	30	42	70	4 2/3	14	24	33
80	7 3/4	24	39	55	80	6 1/2	20	33	46	80	5 1/4	16	27	37
100	9 1/4	28	47	65	100	7 2/3	23	39	54	100	6 1/4	19	32	44
120	10 1/2	32	52	74	120	8 3/4	27	44	62	120	7	21	35	49



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Kitten Chicken Pate 5.5 oz can

Growth less than 4 months					Growth 4-6 months					Growth 7-12 months				
Weight of Cat (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days	Weight of Cat (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days	Weight of Cat (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
1	2/3	2	3	4	1	1/2	2	3	4	1	1/2	2	3	4
2	1 1/8	4	6	8	2	1	3	5	7	2	3/4	3	4	6
3	1 1/2	5	8	11	3	1 1/4	4	7	9	3	1	3	5	7
4	1 7/8	6	10	14	4	1 5/8	5	9	12	4	1 1/4	4	7	9
6	2 1/2	8	13	18	6	2 1/4	7	12	16	6	1 3/4	6	9	13
					8	2 2/3	8	14	19	8	2 1/4	7	12	16
					10	3 1/4	10	17	23	10	2 1/2	8	13	18
										12	3	9	15	21

Implementing Hill's Prescription Diet i/d in Postoperative Nutrition Planning



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Adult Dog Chicken & Vegetable Stew 12.5 oz can

Weight of Dog (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
5	3/4	3	4	6
10	1 1/4	4	7	9
15	1 3/4	6	9	13
20	2	6	10	14
30	3	9	15	21
40	3 1/2	11	18	25
50	4 1/4	13	22	30
60	4 3/4	15	24	34
70	5 1/2	17	28	39
80	6	18	30	42
100	7	21	35	49
120	8 1/4	25	42	58



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Adult Dog Chicken & Vegetable Stew 5.5 oz can

Weight of Dog (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
5	1 1/3	5	9	12
10	2 3/4	9	14	20
15	3 3/4	12	19	27
20	4 3/4	15	24	34
30	6 1/2	20	33	46
40	8	24	40	56
50	9 1/2	29	48	67
60	11	33	55	77
70	12 1/4	37	62	86
80	13 1/2	41	68	95
100	16	48	80	112
120	18 1/3	55	92	129



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Adult Dog Turkey Recipe 13 oz can

Weight of Dog (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
5	1/2	2	3	4
10	1	3	5	7
15	1 1/4	4	7	9
20	1 1/2	5	8	11
30	2	6	10	14
40	2 2/3	8	14	19
50	3	9	15	21
60	3 1/2	11	18	25
70	4	12	20	28
80	4 1/3	13	22	31
100	5 1/4	16	27	37
120	6	18	30	42



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Adult Cat Chicken and Vegetable Stew 2.9 oz can

Weight of Cat (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
6	2 1/2	8	13	18
8	3	9	15	21
10	3 1/2	11	18	25
12	4	12	20	28
14	4 1/2	14	23	32
16	5	15	25	35
18	5 1/2	17	28	39



Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Adult Cat Chicken Pâté 5.5 oz can

Weight of Cat (lbs)	Cans to Feed Per Day	Cans to Send Home Per 3 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 5 Days	Cans to Send Home Per 7 Days
6	1	3	5	7
8	1 1/4	4	7	9
10	1 1/2	5	8	11
12	1 3/4	6	9	13
14	2	6	10	14
16	2 1/4	7	12	16
18	2 1/3	7	12	17