

VETERINARY  
SURGICAL  
SPECIALISTS

AVSG  
INTERNAL MEDICINE  
EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE

■ † A VERITAS VETERINARY PARTNER

**Veterinary Surgical Specialists**  
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VSSOC Email: info@vssoc.com

**AVSG Internal Medicine/Emergency & Critical Care**  
2965 Edinger Ave  
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12-19-2025

Natalia Boiko

Ariel  
Canine, Labrador Retriever Mix, 6 years 11 months,  
FS

Dr Mariana Pascucci  
Culver Pet Clinic

**Thank you for letting us take care of Ariel:**

**Ariel** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last urination:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last bowel movement:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Food offered at:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Appetite:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis:** Elbow Dysplasia - Bilateral

**Surgical Procedure:** Elbow Arthroscopy with Medial Coronoid Process Removal - Bilateral Elbow

**CONFINEMENT:** For the next 4 weeks, keep your pet confined to a cage or small room. Canine patients should be walked outside on a leash/harness for no more than 5-10 minutes to allow elimination.

At 4-8 weeks postoperatively, continue to keep your pet confined to a cage or small room. Canine patients should be walked outside on a leash/harness for no more than 10-15 minutes to allow elimination and mild exercise.

At 8-12 weeks postoperatively, a gradual decrease in confinement and increase in activity can be started. Allow your pet free roam of the house (except for stairs) when you are home to supervise, and gradually increase the length of leash walks by 5 -10 minutes every 3-4 days.

No running/jumping/playing or climbing stairs until 12 weeks postoperatively.

**BANDAGES:** Adhesive island dressings have been placed over the incisions. It is not uncommon for these bandages to lift at the edges or lose adhesion due to normal use of hindlimbs, normal oil secretions from the skin or from rubbing on furniture/bedding. Ideally the bandages should stay on for 3-4 days, but can be removed earlier if they no longer cover the incisions.

**Please remove pressure wrap from Ariel's leg 1 hour after arriving home.**

**ELIZABETHAN COLLAR:** The collar is used to prevent self-trauma to Ariel's incision and/ or bandage. It is usually best to keep it on at all times until the incision is healed and/ or the bandage is removed. It can be removed if you are closely watching her at all times in order to allow her to walk outside or eat and drink. Please bring your E-collar for all follow up appointments.

**INCISION CARE:** Do not let Ariel lick or chew at the incision. Check daily for any incisional swelling or drainage. It is not usually necessary to clean the area, however, if drainage is noticed or the incision is dirty, use warm water on a soft cloth for gentle cleaning. It is not uncommon to see bruising around the incision site. Bruising can be dark red to purple in coloration and will typically dissipate a few days after surgery. You may also notice redness or skin irritation where your pet was shaved for surgery. Please do not let Ariel continuously lick/scratch/traumatize these areas. You can use an e-collar to prevent self-trauma.

**MEDICATION:** Administer all medications as directed. If you think Ariel is experiencing any side effects from the prescribed medications, please call and speak to one of our staff members.

Drug Name	Quantity	Instructions
Carprofen 100mg Caplet	10	(NSAID) Give 1/2 tablet orally every 12 hours with food for 10 days. Discontinue if vomiting or diarrhea is noted. <b>A dose was administered this morning, next dose due this evening with dinner.</b>
Nocita 13.3mg/ml Injection	4	The local anesthetic agent Nocita was instilled at the time of closure to provide a sustained-release 72-hour bupivacaine blockade. <b>This medication was administered during surgery.</b>
Neurontin (Gabapentin) 300mg Capsule	42	(Pain Med) Give 1 capsule orally every 8-12 hours for 2 weeks. May cause drowsiness or sedation. <b>Next dose due between 2pm (8 hour dose) and 6pm(12 hour dose).</b>
Trazodone 100mg Tablet	60	(Sedative) Give 1 to 1.5 tablets orally every 8-12 hours <b>as needed</b> for anxiety and confinement.
Adequan 100mg/ml Injection	10	Administer 1.3ml under the skin twice weekly for 4 weeks. <b>The first dose will be given with you at the discharge appointment. Continue doses on Tuesdays and Saturdays for 4 weeks.</b>
3ml Syringe with Needle	8	Use with adequan injections
Sharps Container Red 1.1 Quart X-small	1	Please put used needles in here and return to VSSOC for disposal.

#### MEDICATION WARNING AND DRUG COUNSELING:

Drug Name	Description
Carprofen 100mg Caplet	This medication is a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) that is used for the treatment of pain and inflammation. This medication should NOT be administered with any other NSAID or steroid medication. Common side effects include anorexia, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, black/tarry stools. Overdose could result in liver toxicity, kidney toxicity, or gastric perforation. If you miss a dose or are unsure whether your pet ingested the medication, do not administer again. Wait until the next prescribed dose. Duration of effect is 12 hours. Store at room temperature in packaging provided.
Neurontin (Gabapentin) 300mg Capsule	This medication is commonly used for neuropathic pain analgesia. Use with caution for patients with renal insufficiency. Side effects may include lethargy, sedation, and ataxia. If you miss a dose or are unsure whether your pet ingested the medication, do not administer again. Wait until the next prescribed dose. The duration of effect is 8 to 12 hours. Store in room temperature in packaging provided.
Trazodone 100mg Tablet	This is an anti-anxiety medication commonly used for sedation/confinement. Use with caution for geriatric and neonatal patients. Contraindicated with SSRI anti-depressants (i.e. tramadol, prozac). Side effects may include lethargy, sedation, panting, hyperactivity, shaking and restlessness. If you miss a dose or are unsure whether your pet ingested the medication, do not administer again. Wait until the next prescribed dose. The duration of effect is 8 to 12 hours. Store in room temperature in packaging provided.
Adequan 100mg/ml Injection per ML	This medication is used in the treatment and prevention of arthritis. Side effects include injection-site soreness. If you miss a dose, administer as soon as you remember. If you are unsure whether your pet received the medication, do not administer again. Wait until the next prescribed dose. Duration of effect is dose dependent. Store at room temperature in packaging provided.

**RECHECK:** (Please call for an appointment.)

- Please schedule an appointment for a recheck evaluation in 14 days for suture removal.
- Then final recheck at 8 weeks.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email or call to speak with a staff member.

**Email:** Send any incision pictures and non-urgent questions/concerns to [rechecks@vssoc.com](mailto:rechecks@vssoc.com)

**During Business Hours** (Monday through Sunday 7am - 6pm): Please call VSSOC at **949-936-0055**.

**Overnight Hours** (Monday through Sunday 6pm - 7am): Please call VSSOC at **949-936-0055** or AVSG Emergency and Critical Care **949-653-9300**.

**Dr. Thomas Keeshen**      [tkeeshen@vssoc.com](mailto:tkeeshen@vssoc.com)

## **POST-OPERATIVE**

### **Q: What do I do if Ariel won't take her medications?**

A: Here are a few tips to try:

**Pills/capsules:** If Ariel does not take pills/capsules easily, you can consider hiding the medication in small meatballs. Use canned food to form small meatballs, just enough to cover the medication. When meatballs are too large, Ariel may eat the outside and then spit out the pill/capsule. The goal is to have Ariel swallow the meatball without knowing there were medications inside. You can also try this method with boiled chicken breast.

**Liquid medications:** Gently guide Ariel's nose upward by lifting under the chin, insert the syringe into the side of the mouth, just behind the canine tooth, and give the medication while keeping the head lifted upwards. This allows the medication to travel to the back of the throat to stimulate swallowing of the medication. You can also gently rub the neck to stimulate swallowing.

### **Q: Can all the medications sent home with Ariel be given together?**

A: Unless otherwise directed in our discharge paperwork, all medications being sent home are safe to be given at the same time.

### **Q: Can I give Ariel supplements and flea/heartworm prevention after surgery?**

A: It is okay to continue Ariel's supplements and flea/heartworm prevention as previously directed. If Ariel receives topical flea prevention, please apply the medication in an area away from the incision site.

### **Q: How can I tell if Ariel is experiencing pain, anxiety or dysphoria?**

A: Here are the common ways to tell if your pet is experiencing the following:

**Pain/discomfort:** The demeanor of your pet as she leaves the hospital is what you should expect at home. Any signs of your pet doing worse may require re-evaluation by a doctor. You should be able to touch the incision. Signs of pain can include lameness, especially if she becomes non-weight-bearing on the surgery limb. If your pet yelps out when the incision site or the surgery limb is touched. Clinical signs of pain in dogs include panting, crying, increased aggression, decreased appetite, decreased activity, withdrawal from the owner, and agitation.

**Anxiety:** Anxiety can be triggered in pets due to stress, separation anxiety, medications, fears, certain illness/disease, or simply being in an unfamiliar environment without their family. Anxiety can be observed as subtle behavior changes (i.e. whining, seeking comfort/attention, hiding or preferring solitude, panting/shaking, and excessive licking or chewing) to more profound symptoms (i.e. aggression, excessive vocalization, destruction, and high energy).

**Dysphoria:** Dysphoria is a profound state of unease or dissatisfaction accompanied by anxiety or agitation. Dysphoria is typically caused by opioid medication or anesthesia. Clinical signs seen in a dysphoric animal include vocalization, panting, or struggling.

### **Q: When can Ariel have a bath?**

A: Your pet cannot have a bath while the surgical incision is healing, or if your pet has a bandage. During this time, you can use waterless shampoo or bathing wipes. Typically, your pet can have a bath after sutures/bandages are removed. If your pet had an orthopedic surgery, please make sure the bathing area has a non-slip surface for your pet to stand on.

### **Q: When will Ariel have a bowel movement?**

A: Your pet may not have a bowel movement for several days after surgery. This is normal due to fasting prior to your pet's surgical procedure. A bowel movement will come along in the next few days as long as your pet continues to eat and drink at home. If you notice your pet straining to have a bowel movement, please contact our staff for further instructions.

### **Q: What if Ariel has diarrhea?**

A: Diarrhea can be a common side effect for some pets due to the stress of surgery, medications, and/or the change in their daily routine. Please call our office if the diarrhea is lasting more than 24 hours after being home or if your pet seems to having an excessive amount of diarrhea.

### **Q: How often should Ariel be urinating after surgery?**

A: Your pet should urinate at least twice a day during recovery. If you notice any straining during urination or lack of urine production for 24 hours, please call us for further instructions.

**Q: What should I do if Ariel is leaking urine while sleeping?**

A: This is most commonly seen in patients that have been sedated and are unable to urinate on their normal schedule. Offer additional short walks and additional time outside to give them the opportunity to relieve themselves more frequently or before administering a sedative (or medications that cause drowsiness).

**Q: What should I do if Ariel is not eating normally?**

A: It is normal for pets to have a reduced appetite postoperatively. Bland foods such as boiled chicken and rice can be fed safely. Resume Ariel's regular feeding schedule as soon as possible.

**Q: What if I have questions after Veterinary Surgical Specialists has closed for the day?**

A: To speak with a staff member after 6pm, you can call Veterinary Surgical Specialists at 949-936-0055, the VSS technician cell phone at 949-872-6669, or AVSG Urgent Care at 949-653-9300. However, the after hours staff may not have intimate knowledge regarding the procedure compared to the morning surgical staff, so please be patient while they help answer your after hours questions. When calling, please inform them with the surgeon who performed the surgery, what surgery was performed, and how long ago the surgery was performed.

To make an appointment, please call during normal business hours Monday through Saturday 7am - 6pm.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:**

AVSG Internal Medicine Emergency & Critical Care  
949-653-9300  
AVSGimuc.com