**Post-procedural care includes the following:**

1. **Monitoring anaesthetic recovery**

* Someone must be present with any animal recovering from anesthesia until that animal is able to hold itself in a sternal position (on its chest, able to hold its head up). Rodents and rabbits must be ambulatory, since even an anesthetized rodent is stable enough to rest on its chest.
* Endotracheal tubes should be kept in place as long as possible; they must be removed when the animal begins to chew or swallow
* The animal must be able to [maintain normal physiology](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/anesthesia.html). Heart rate, respiration, and hydration should be stable and within normal limits for the species.

2. **Post-procedural monitoring and care**

* Provide [analgesia](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/anesthesia.html#Analgesia) as needed.
* Provide nursing support which may include a quiet, darkened recovery or resting place, timely wound and bandage maintenance, increased ambient warmth, a soft resting surface, rehydration with oral or parenteral fluids, and a return to normal feeding through the use of highly palatable foods or treats.
* Consider the administration of [antibiotics](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/surgery.html#antibiotic) to prevent post-procedural infections
* Monitor incisions for swelling, exudate, pain or dehiscence
* Monitor catheters & devices
* Monitor for procedure-related complications such as organ failure, thrombosis, ischemia

3. [**Maintaining records**](http://cflegacy.research.umn.edu/iacuc/guidelines/AnesthesiaRecords1008.pdf)

* Records must include a daily assessment and treatments given.  Other items that could be included in the record are anaesthetic agents and time administered intra-operative assessments and recovery observations.
* Post-operative records are required on all animals and must be readily available for review.