Troubleshooting prolonged recovery

DELAYED RECOVERY?
Has it been >15–30 mins?

Hypothermia?
Check temperature <36.7ºC (98ºF)

Yes
No

Yes
No

Treat for hypothermia

Hypothermia?
Check temperature <36.7ºC (98ºF)

Yes
No

Respiratory depression?
Check ETCO₂, RR

Abnormal
Normal

Abnormal
Normal

Cerebral hypoxemia
Check corneal and pupillary reflexes

Present
Absent

No patient arousal?

Consult with specialist

Antagonize reversible drugs: opioids, benzodiazepines, alpha₂-agonists

Supplemental oxygen

ETCO₂ = end-tidal carbon dioxide; RR = respiratory rate

This algorithm is from the AAFP Feline Anesthesia Guidelines, published in JFMS in July 2018 and available at catvets.com/guidelines