



Instructions for Post-Surgery

Your pet will be a little drowsy from the anesthesia for the remainder of the evening.

When you return home:

- Adult pet: Restrict food intake to avoid stomach upset. Do not offer adult pets any food for the first 2 to 3 hours. Then offer food in very small amounts (1/4-1/2 normal amount) for the first 12 hours, but do not be concerned if your pet does not want to eat right away. Remove food until morning if vomiting occurs. Offer normal amounts of water, but do not allow them to drink a large amount at once as this may cause vomiting.
- ***Kittens and puppies*** can be offered food and water upon returning home.
- Confine pets in an area away from other pets and children for 24 hours. Do **NOT** place them in a high place (bed, sofa, etc). Monitor him or her around steps as (s)he may stumble and fall. Rest and sleep are essential for healing.
- If pain medication has been prescribed, please follow the written instructions carefully. Do **NOT** give aspirin, Advil (ibuprofen) or Tylenol (acetaminophen) to your pet for pain relief. ***These medications can be deadly to pets.***
- A small amount of dried blood around the incision is normal immediately after surgery. Stitches should not be visible as they are buried and will be absorbed over time. All pets will have a small green tattoo in the shape of a line near the incision site.
- Occasionally, the tube placed in your pet's windpipe (trachea) during surgery can cause some minor irritation resulting in post-surgical gagging or coughing. If these symptoms last more than a few days, please consult a veterinarian. If your pet has any difficulty breathing please seek veterinary care immediately.
- Do **NOT** allow your pet to lick the incision. We recommend use of an E-collar to prevent licking. Please note that repairing any self-inflicted damage to the incision site will be at the owner's expense.
- Your pet has had eye ointment put in its eyes for protection during surgery. This may make the eyes look glazed or weepy. The ointment will absorb naturally, so do not remove.

For the next week:

- Keep your pet indoor in a clean environment that is quiet, warm, and dry..
- Restrict your pet's activity for 7-10 days. Take dogs outside only on a leash and discourage running, jumping or rough play.
- ***Check your pet's incision daily.*** A small amount of redness and swelling is normal. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any discharge or heat at the incision site.
- ***Do not*** wash or clean the incision. ***Do not bathe or get your pet wet for 7 days***
- Keep males and females separated. They may try to breed for several weeks after surgery, and neutered males can be fertile for up to six weeks after surgery. Spayed female dogs that were in heat can continue to have bloody discharge for a few days after surgery.

Post operative concerns:

Contact a veterinarian if your pet exhibits the following symptoms:

- Your pet is unable to stand or walk 12 hours after surgery.
- Your pet is not eating or drinking 24 hours after surgery.
- There is significant swelling or bleeding at the incision site. A firm, small swelling under the skin is a normal inflammatory response to surgery and will get smaller over several weeks. A lump that is soft or accompanied by fever or lethargy should be seen by a veterinarian.
- Significant discomfort or lethargy 48 hours after surgery.
- After hours Emergency Care locations are listed on our website