



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PET FOLLOWING SURGERY

PROPER RESTRAINT

Your pet may still be slightly groggy from the anesthesia as he leaves the office. To prevent any injury, it is best to have your pet in a carrier or on a leash when leaving the clinic. A carrier will ensure the safety of your pet and decrease any chance of injury during the ride home. Upon arriving home, provide a quiet area where your pet can fully recover over the next 12-24 hours.

FOOD AND WATER

Your pet has been fasted for his/her safety in preparation for general anesthesia and surgery. Because of this, he/she may want to eat upon returning home. It is best to wait 1-2 hours after arriving home before offering a small amount of food. Offer ½ a normal meal this evening. Normal meals can be resumed tomorrow morning.

ELIMINATION

The gastrointestinal tract can be affected by general anesthesia and surgery. This may result in your pet having soft stools or constipation for 24-36 hours following the general anesthesia and surgical procedure. Some pets may have bright red blood on their stools associated with stress. If any changes persist beyond 36 hours, please contact our office.

EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY

Your pet is recovering from major surgery, so remember to limit his/her activity as much as possible. We recommend you keep your pet confined to a small area during the recovery period. **Discourage jumping of any kind.** Jumping may cause the incisions to open and require surgery to repair the damage. Normal activity may be resumed in 7-10 days.

SUTURES

Suture material was used to close the incision; the sutures need to be removed in 10-14 days.

You should check your pet's incision daily. Excessive swelling, redness or discharge should be reported immediately to our office. There should not be any bleeding. If your pet's incision begins to bleed or have any discharge, call our office immediately. Some licking is expected; if Your pet begins to lick or chew obsessively at the incision sight, we can provide you with a special collar to prevent complications.

MONITOR

While we feel confident Your pet will recover normally, there are risks associated with any episode of general anesthesia. Call our office if you note any abnormalities over the next week. These include, but are not limited to:

- *Loss of appetite for more than 2 days
- *Refusal to drink water for more than 1 day
- *Weakness or listlessness

*Vomiting

PAIN MEDICATION

Begin administering Your pet's pain medication tomorrow morning.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about Your pet's follow-up care, please call our office immediately!