

Care of Your Pet Following Surgery or Hospitalization

Pets, like people, are made up of systems of delicate tissues. In order to minimize post-surgical complications, you will need to provide the proper conditions if we are to expect satisfactory healing of your pet.

Exercise and Activity:

- Your pet should be under strict confinement to a cage or small room for _____ days. Carry outside for elimination. No running, jumping or access to stairs should be permitted.
- Brief leash walks (on a short leash) only for _____ days. Avoid stairs and jumping on and off of furniture. Outdoor exercise must be limited to short periods on a short leash and only when necessary.
- No bathing or grooming or swimming for _____ days.
- It is okay to resume normal activity after _____.

Incision/Wound Care:

- Check the incision twice daily and notify us if you notice any swelling, redness or drainage. Prevent licking, chewing, and / or scratching at the incision / bandage.
- Use shredded news paper instead of clay littler for seven days for declaws.
- Keep the bandage/splint clean and dry. Cover loosely with a plastic bag when outdoors. Call the hospital if the bandage/splint slips, becomes wet, soiled or if you notice any swelling above or below the bandage/splint.

Diet:

- Return to your pet's normal diet.
- Feed softened or canned food for the next three (3) days to allow your pet's mouth to heal.
- A permanent diet change to _____ is necessary. In order for this diet to be effective, it is imperative that you feed only this food. No table scraps or non-prescription treats allowed.

Medications:

- No medications are indicated.
- Give the prescribed medications as indicated. (directions attached):

Appointments:

- We need to see your pet back for a recheck exam in _____ days. Please call ahead for an appointment.
- Suture removal in _____ days: _____.
- Drain removal in _____ days: _____.
- Bandage/splint change/check in _____ days: _____.

Monitor:

- A decrease in activity or appetite for one or two days may be observed and patients may not have a bowel movement for 24 to 36 hours after surgery. This is normal. However, if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms, please notify the hospital: (1) loss of appetite for over two days, (2) refusal to drink water over one day, (3) weakness, (4) depression, (5) vomiting, or (6) diarrhea.

PLEASE CALL US AT (843) 744-8927 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS