



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SURGERY PATIENTS

Your pet has undergone anesthesia and surgery today. Your pet's ears were cleaned and nails were cut today at no charge. Please read the following recommendations to ensure a smooth recovery:

1. Your pet may be groggy due to the anesthesia and pain killers. Please use a leash, carry your pet or use a carrier to protect your pet when leaving the hospital.
2. Your pet's eyes and hair around the eyes may appear greasy. This is due to the lubrication that is necessary since pets do not close their eyes under anesthesia. You can use a warm wash cloth to gently wash away any remaining grease.
3. When your pet arrives home, keep him/her quiet for a few hours. Offer water and feed a small amount of his/her normal food at first to avoid vomiting. As the night goes on you may gradually offer more food. The next morning you may return to your pet's normal feeding schedule.
4. You may observe decreased activity or appetite for 1-2 days. However, please call us if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms: refusal to drink water for longer than 1 day, loss of appetite for more than 2 days or excessive weakness, depression, vomiting or diarrhea. Some patients may not have a bowel movement for 1-3 days. This delay typically results from decreased food intake in preparation for the anesthesia. Pain medications can also slow down the GI tract. Your pet may have a mild cough for a few days due to a breathing tube placed in the trachea.
5. Your pet may have a shaved spot on one or more of his/her legs where an IV catheter was inserted. If necessary, you may apply 1% hydrocortisone ointment to this shaved area several times a day to help decrease itching and redness.
6. Antibiotics are often prescribed if there is a possibility of infection; please finish all of the prescription as directed to treat and prevent infection. Pain killers/anti-inflammatories may also be prescribed for a few days. You may hide these medicines in pill pockets, cheese, peanut butter, deli meat, etc... If you suspect an adverse reaction (vomiting, diarrhea, dark or tarry stools, decrease in appetite, abdominal behavior, ect...), please call us as soon as possible.
7. Restrict your pet's activity for the next 7-14 days. Do not allow any strenuous activity (running, jumping, rough playing with other pets or children, etc...). Your pet should be confined indoors if

possible and dogs should be leash walked only for a few days in order to restrict their activity and to monitor their bowel movements.

8. Your pet's **incision should be monitored** at least twice daily until healed. A small amount of bloody seepage is normal the night of the surgery. **Some redness and swelling** of the incision is also **expected** after surgery. If the swelling increases dramatically, becomes more painful, the incision begins to drain or is increasingly inflamed, please call us. Please do not allow your pet to lick, rub or chew at the surgical site. You may clean the incision with warm water and a soft paper towel. You may apply triple antibiotic ointment/Neosporin as needed to the incision. You may use 1% hydrocortisone ointment on the shaved skin around the incision as needed to treat irritation caused by the clipping of the hair. You may use a cold compress (a bag of frozen peas works well) on the incision 2-4 times daily (5-10 min as tolerated) for the first days post-op to help with inflammation. Please use a paper towel or thin cloth between the cold and your pet's skin to keep the incision from getting too cold or wet.
9. If your pet has sutures at the incision you will need to bring him/her back in **10-14 days** for us to **remove the sutures** and examine the incision. Please call for an appointment for suture removal. Please do not bathe your pet until his/her follow up appointment unless it is absolutely necessary.
10. If your pet is **excessively licking** at his/her incision you will need to contact us about getting a special **"cone" collar** that prevents your pet from licking at the incision. These collars are also available at Petsmart and Petco.
Please ensure that your pet wears the cone collar whenever not directly supervised (at night or when you are away from home).
11. If your pet was **spayed or neutered** you should **feed 10-20% less** food on a daily basis to avoid excessive weight gain. Once healed, exercise has many benefits to a long, healthy life.

Please call (305) 238-5161 if you have any questions or concerns.