



Patient: _____

Discharge Date: _____

In order to continue your pet's recovery at home, it is important that you follow these instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call us.

1. Food and Water

- Allow nothing by mouth during the first few hours after returning home.
- Water, in small amounts, may be given 2 hours after returning home.
- Food may also be given in small amounts (about 1/3 of normal amount) around dinner time.
- Be Careful – excessive water or food after anesthetic may cause vomiting. Lack of appetite is common after given anesthetic, but should return to normal within the first 24 hours.
- Any coughing should subside in 24-48 hours.
- Resume normal water and food consumption on the first full day home following surgery.
- For dentals, feed canned food (or moisten dry food with warm water) and no hard toys or treats for the next _____ days.

2. Exercise

- Provide a quiet resting area where your pet can stay quiet after his/her surgery.
- Keep your pet warm following surgery and for the next 24 hours.
- Restrict all activity for the next 7-10 days (especially important for large breed dogs).
- Leash walking is permissible, but DO NOT allow unrestrained running, jumping, or playing.

3. Incision

- Check the incision at least twice daily. It should appear closed, cleaned, dry, and free of discharge.
- Excessive licking or chewing can interfere with healing, cause redness and swelling, and should be discouraged.
- If your pet is bothering the incision site, stop by the clinic to get an E-collar (cone). This should be worn until the sutures come out.
- Avoid bathing your pet or allowing swimming for 14 days.
- Skin sutures are buried beneath the skin and do not require removal (i. e. neuters).
- Skin sutures/staples (i. e. spays or abdominal surgeries) are to be removed in 14 days.
- Bandage should be removed in _____ day(s). Keep dry and clean and watch for any swelling above or below it.
- Recheck in _____ days.

4. Weakness

- Your pet may be weak or disoriented for a period lasting 24 hours, as an after-effect of the anesthetic.

5. Problems to watch for:

- Call us if you notice any of the follow: Loss of appetite, chewing or loss of sutures, repeated vomiting, bleeding, excessive swelling, or discharge from surgical site.

6. Special Instructions:
