

Caring For Pets after Surgery

Proper Restraint is important after your pet's surgery. Please use a leash or carrier to protect your pet when leaving the hospital. Do not allow your pet to become overly excited. After surgery, an overly excited pet is prone to re-injury.

Food and Water are important for recovery from surgery, but for the first 12 hours after a surgery, it is important to limit food and water intake. This will prevent vomiting. If the doctor prescribed a special diet, be sure to follow the instructions carefully.

- Feed your pet its regular diet, beginning with small feedings.
 - Feed multiple small meals _____ times per day.
 - Special diet instructions: _____.
- Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24-48 hours after surgery.

Exercise must be limited as your pet recovers from surgery. Block stairs and avoid situations that risk injury. Your pet may remain groggy for up to 24 hours after anesthesia.

- Your pet may resume normal exercise and activity in _____ days.
 - Confine your pet indoors for _____ days. Use a leash when taking your pet outside for elimination.
 - Confine your pet to a small room or kennel for _____ days. Carry it outside for elimination.
- Don't let your pet run, jump or climb stairs. Never let your pet swim for 10-14 days after surgery.

Sutures or Staples close skin incisions. Discourage your pet from licking and chewing sutures or staples. Check the incision daily for swelling, redness or discharge. If the sutures or staples appear irritated or infected, contact us immediately.

- We will remove sutures or staples by appointment _____ days from the surgery date.
- Sutures are absorbable and do not require removal.

Bandages require care and attention. Ensure that your pet does not chew at or lick its bandage. Prevent the bandage from getting wet. A plastic bag can be taped around the bandage temporarily while your pet is outside if the ground is wet or damp. There should be no odor associated with the bandage. There should be no swelling of tissues adjacent to the bandage. If the bandage becomes worn or damaged or if there is an odor or discharge associated with the bandage, contact the hospital.

Please Make an **Appointment** for the following:

- Suture removal in _____ days.
- Drain removal in _____ days.
- Bandage change in _____ days.
- Recheck in _____ days.

Monitor your pet's status. You may observe decreased appetite or activity for one or two days. However, if your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact the hospital immediately:

- Loss of appetite for more than two days.
- Weakness
- Vomiting
- Refusal to drink for more than one day.
- Depression
- Diarrhea

Special Instructions:
