

# Post-Operative Instructions

## What to expect when you get your pet home

Your pet has had surgery. The surgery requires general anesthesia. The patient is completely asleep and unable to feel or move. Your pet is given an IV anesthetic and then maintained on an inhalant anesthetic (Isoflurane) via an endotracheal tube (tube in the "throat"). This procedure is very safe, but your pet may have a bit of a cough from the tube for a day or two after surgery. If your pet has a cough that lasts more than 48 hours, please contact the clinic. We strongly suggest, for the safety and well-being of your pet, that you read and follow these post-operative instructions. **Check the incision site at least twice daily.** What you see today is what we consider normal. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Contact us at 913-837-5341 if you see excessive redness, swelling, any discharge or blood. **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR CHEW AT THE INCISION.** If this occurs, please contact the clinic immediately.

## Sutures

Unless you are told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures. Do not clean or apply topical ointment to the incision site. If you are told that your pet has skin sutures or skin staples, they will need to return in 10-14 days to have those removed.

## Activity

Some animals are active after surgery, while others are quiet. It is very important that you limit your pet's activity for the next 7-10 days. No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity during the 7-10 day recovery period. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats must be kept inside. Keep your pet quiet. Any strenuous activity could disrupt this healing process. The healing process takes at least 7 days.

## Feeding

Your pet has had a small snack the night of surgery. Their appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and you should contact us immediately.

## Potential Complications

Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. If it persists longer, please contact us. Please contact us immediately if you notice any of the following:

- ! depression
- ! vomiting or diarrhea
- ! discharge or bleeding from the incision
- ! labored breathing

Although your pet's surgery is a commonly performed outpatient procedure, any surgery can result in complications especially from failure to follow post-operative instructions. **Complications include**, but are not limited to: skin infection, swelling at the surgery site, and even opening of one or multiple suture layers. If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call **this office at 913-837-5341**. If there is an emergency after hours, you can contact **this office or the Veterinary Specialty Emergency Clinic at 913-642-9563**. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible

for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious disease for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.

**Your pet should return to this office for suture removal /recheck ten days after the date of surgery. Please call for an appointment.**