

Post Operative Instructions

1. Your pet has undergone a general anesthetic. Some pets are still groggy and possibly a bit wobbly from the medications used. They should be kept away from stairs and not allowed to jump onto or off of any furniture, into vehicles etc. for 24 hours. Keep in your pet in a safe, comfortable location overnight.
2. You can offer your pet a small amount of water then food once they are home. Don't overdo it the first night, some pets may vomit because they have previously fasted. They have undergone a major surgery therefore some pets require some extra special encouragement if not eating as well in the days following the procedure (use your best judgement for what is appropriate for your pet). Contact us if your pet is not eating or drinking at all within 24 hours.
3. It takes up to two weeks for some pets to fully recover from their surgery. During this time it is **important to reduce activity** such as running and jumping. If you have a very active dog - a short leash walk may help to calm an active mind. Too much movement can lead to increased discomfort, swelling (cats – "seroma" which is fluid under the incision and male dogs may get a scrotal swelling) and in the worse case scenario a break down of the sutures holding the tissues together.
4. The incision should remain clean and dry (check daily). Your pet should not be bathed or allowed to swim for two weeks following the procedure. If the incision becomes dirty you can gently wipe it off using a clean wet cloth and pat dry. Please do not use alcohol or peroxide on the incision. It is also not necessary to apply any products (ex. Polysporin) to the incision – it may encourage licking.
5. It is **very important to discourage licking**. Instead of cleaning the incision as some people believe, it actually leads to redness, swelling and infection at the incision site. There are several ways to prevent this, we encourage you to enquire about the options. (Cone (head); Yuk (topically around the incision); Onesies in small dogs.)
6. You may see a small amount of dried blood on the incision or some minor bruising – these should start to disappear within the first 48 to 72 hours. Sutures are usually buried and will dissolve on their own. You may occasionally see a knot that has come to the surface which can be removed after a two week period. If there are any external sutures present or a need to have the incision rechecked we will arrange before discharging.
7. A minor cough or raspy noise may be noted for several days in some patients after they have been intubated.
8. Please do not use at home pain medication, this can be harmful to your pet. We administer appropriate injectable pain medication during the procedure. If we send some post operative medication home, please read and follow the instructions carefully.

Note: We will gladly recheck the incision if there are concerns. We will treat post op complications at a minimal cost if instructions were observed.