

Post-Operative Care Instructions

PET SHOULD BE GIVEN PAIN MEDICATION REGARDLESS OF WHETHER PET APPEARS TO BE IN PAIN

Animals cover their pain but have the same pain pathways as humans.

Reproductive, and some other surgeries, are as painful for animals as repairing a broken leg would be for humans.

ALL PATIENTS

Post-surgery to following morning:

- ✓ Patient should be allowed to recover in a calm and relaxed setting.
- ✓ Patient may be sleepy or off-balance.
- ✓ Patient should avoid exposure to children, other pets and/or stairs.
- ✓ Patient may be grouchy or confused in reaction to coming out of anesthesia, despite normal personality.
- ✓ Patient should be provided with water and a half portion of typical night feeding amount.
 - ★ Patient may not be hungry first night, but should recover appetite within next few days.
- ✓ Dog should only be allowed outside for toileting and should be monitored to reduce chance of infection.
- ✓ House-cat should NOT be allowed outside for 7-10 days.
- ✓ Feral cat should be allowed to recover indoors until the morning following surgery.
 - ★ Cat needs time to heal and allow drugs to leave system to be able to properly defend self outdoors.
- ✓ Patient may cough over next few days in reaction to having had a tracheal tube inserted during surgery.

First morning after surgery:

- ✓ Provide the first dose of pain medication on the morning following surgery

CAT NEUTER RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ No sutures are placed when male cats are neutered; instead 2 small slits are made over the scrotum.
- ✓ Most are fully recovered the day following surgery and do not need e-collars.
- ✓ Call to schedule a re-check if your cat is constantly licking at his scrotum and/or has swelling or bleeding.

DOG NEUTER RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Dissolvable sutures are buried under skin making suture removal unnecessary.
- ✓ Do not bathe patient for 10 days following surgery as it is very important to not get incision wet.
- ✓ Most patients fully recover from surgery within 1 – 2 days, but some may appear less energetic for 3 or 4 days.
- ✓ In order to greatly reduce likelihood of infection, please do the following:
 - ★ Appropriate wear of E-Collar **greatly reduces** chance of infection and/or re-opening of sutures and chance of a 2nd surgery becoming necessary.
 - ★ Protect patient from reaching his incision by keeping E-Collar on for 7 – 10 days.
 - ★ Patient should not be able to reach his nose past end of E-Collar.
- ✓ Call to schedule a re-check if your dog's incision becomes swollen, appears to open or have a discharge.
- ✓ If scrotum looks to be filling up, like he had not been neutered, patient **needs to be seen as soon as possible.**

CAT/DOG SPAY RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Dissolvable sutures are buried under skin making suture removal unnecessary.
- ✓ Do not bathe patient for 10 days following surgery as it is very important to not get incision wet.
- ✓ Most patients fully recover from surgery within 1 – 2 days, but some may appear less energetic for 3 or 4 days.
- ✓ Check patient's incision daily. Some swelling is expected over the first 2 days, but should not continue. If swelling continues past two days, call to schedule a recheck.
- ✓ Incision should stay completely closed. If it appears to be opening, is open, is draining any discolored discharge or smells, please call to schedule a recheck.
- ✓ It is normal for female dogs which were in heat at time of spay to have some bloody vaginal discharge for a few days following surgery.

CRYPTORCHID NEUTER RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Cryptorchid patients may have 1 or 2 incisions. Second testicle will be removed from closest location possible.
- ✓ Start antibiotics **AND** pain medication morning after surgery.
- ✓ Male cryptorchids are the **most common type of surgery to have aftercare problems** and/or require 2nd surgery.
 - ★ Appropriate wear of E-Collar **substantially reduces** chance of infection and/or re-opening of sutures.
 - ★ Protect patient from reaching his incision by keeping E-Collar on for 7 – 10 days.
 - ★ Patient should not be able to reach his nose past end of E-Collar.
 - ★ Failing to require patient to wear E-Collar can result in additional pain for your dog and possibly an additional surgery.
- ✓ Call to schedule a re-check if your dog's incision becomes swollen, appears to open or have a discharge.
- ✓ If scrotum looks to be filling up, like he had not been neutered, patient **needs to be seen as soon as possible**.

UMBILICAL HERNIAS

- ✓ Incision will be over "belly button" separate from spay/neuter incision. Incision rarely appears to bother patient.
- ✓ Dissolvable sutures are buried under skin making suture removal unnecessary.

DEWCLAW REMOVALS

- ✓ Start antibiotics **AND** pain medication morning after surgery.
- ✓ Recovering from dewclaw removals is typically very uncomfortable for patient.
- ✓ It is VERY, VERY important for patient to be prevented from licking at incision(s).
 - ★ **Sutures are easy to reach if E-Collar not worn and most patients will destroy sutures if given opportunity.** As a result, the following preventive measures are taken to reduce likelihood of negative outcome:
 - ~ E-collar **must** be worn for 7 – 10 days.
 - ~ Foot/Feet wrapped to make it more difficult for patient to irritate incision(s).
 - ~ Antibiotic schedule is completed.
 - ★ Bandage Follow Up
 - ~ If bandage gets wet or dirty, remove it. A wet, dirty bandage can cause infection instead of prevent it.
 - ~ Remove bandage IMMEDIATELY if foot/feet appear(s) swollen as swelling can mean bandage is too tight and circulation is being cut off to healing area.
- ✓ Schedule appointment for suture/bandage removal 10 – 14 days following surgery.

DENTAL CLEANINGS

- ✓ Most patients fully recover from surgery within 1 – 2 days, but some may appear tired.
- ✓ Regular feeding may continue as before.

DENTAL EXTRACTIONS (Pulled Teeth)

- ✓ Start antibiotics **AND/OR** pain medication morning after surgery, if either or both have been provided.
- ✓ Most pets continue to eat normally. Many feel and eat **better** after having bad teeth removed.
- ✓ If teeth are pulled to the degree patient has very few left, food changes must be discussed with the veterinarian to ensure any special dietary needs/modifications are addressed.