

# Vet Clinic Post-Surgical Instructions



Your pet has been under anesthesia and has undergone surgery. Any surgery can be stressful, so you must watch your pet very closely. The following instructions are to aid in the quick and complete recovery of your pet. Please initial next to each section to acknowledge that you understand the expectations for post-operative care for your pet:

- Your pet may be groggy and/or disoriented for the next 12-24 hours. Please watch them closely to ensure that they are in a safe area where they will not be easily disturbed. Please limit your pet's activity for the next 7-10 days.
- Dogs must only be walked on a leash with no rough housing, running, jumping, or strenuous physical activity.
- Do not bathe your pet for 10 days after surgery.
- Do NOT allow excessive licking or chewing of the incision site. This is extremely important as it can lead to infection of the surgical site and/or removal of the sutures. E-collars are available for purchase and are strongly recommended to prevent this potential post-op complication. Additional fees will be charged for repairs or medications needed due to licking and chewing.
- Intact female pets must be isolated from neutered males for at least 14 days, as they can still be fertile during that time.
- Check your pet's incision site daily. Mild redness and swelling should be minimal and should resolve after a few days. A small lump may form under the incision on female pets. This is normal and should disappear with time.
- Your pet has been given a pain medication that will last for 24 hours. Additional pain medication\* may be required for dogs over the age of 4 months and will be sent home with specific instructions.
  - \*Carprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. DO NOT give your pet a dose until the morning following surgery. Your pet received an injectable dose at the time of surgery that will last 24 hours. Common side effects are vomiting and diarrhea. Please discontinue use if these symptoms occur, and call the Veterinary Clinic to have an alternative pain medication prescribed.
- If your pet is able to keep water down, you may offer a small meal a few hours after returning home. Sutures are internal and dissolvable, so your pet does not need to return for suture removal. All females and male puppies will have a small green tattoo along their incision line.
- Please observe your pet for any of the following signs related to the surgery site. Email us a picture to [vcrcception@hsppr.org](mailto:vcrcception@hsppr.org) if there is a concern for any excessive swelling, redness, bleeding, or discharge from the surgery site.
- If any signs of illness are seen, please refer to your adoption paperwork for follow-up care. If you did not adopt from the shelter, please call your regular veterinarian for follow-up care.

- If your pet has excessive bleeding, an open incision, or is in need of urgent medical attention, please call Animal ER Care at 719-260-7141 or seek outside veterinary attention immediately. Emergency care required will be at the adopter/ owner's expense.