

SURGICAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet is recovering from major surgery which requires continued nursing care at home in order to ensure a successful outcome. Your job in the recovery period at home is just as important as the procedure we just completed.

This care at home mainly entails **restriction of activity** because your pet does not understand the significance of the recovery period.

Depending on the surgery your pet had you may need to restrict the following activities.

No jumping or running

No stair climbing

No playing with other pets

No "rough-housing"

When your pet goes outside to eliminate, it must be on a short leash and returned indoors **immediately**. If your pet is to be left alone, it may be safer to confine to a cage or other **small** area. Excessive activity often leads to re-injury or serious complications that result in failure of surgical implant(s) or necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your dog.

Observe the incision daily for signs of redness, swelling, discharge or excessive licking. The incision should look better daily. Please do not hesitate to call if any of the above occur. We have available various sizes of protective collars to keep your pet from licking the incision. Licking usually leads to chewing out sutures, which can occur in a matter of minutes. Call us as soon as possible if this occurs because this can result in an infection that is difficult to treat and may require hospitalization.

In general, your pet should improve gradually each day. If it suddenly worsens please call us as soon as possible. Our goal is to help your pet return to a normal and pain free life. Please call if you have any concerns.

Your pet may be offered a small amount of water when you get home. If your pet did not appear to have an upset stomach you may offer a small amount of food. Please wait until the next day to feed a full size meal. Please make sure that you use the pain medication that your pet came home with as directed. **DO NOT GIVE PAIN MEDICATIONS MORE TIMES THAN PRESCRIBED!**