

## General Surgery

Your pet has been through a general surgery. She will need special attention for a full, uneventful recovery, just as a human would. Please read and review the following instructions. If you have any questions at any time, please call.

**Activity:** No bathing for a minimum of 14 days after surgery. If discharged on the same day as surgery, prevent access to steps, climbing and jumping. If discharged on the same day as surgery and is an outdoor cat, she will need to be kept indoors overnight and for the next 7-14 days.

**Diet:** You can resume your pet's normal diet the day following surgery, but at a reduced amount. As long as she is able to keep food down and doesn't exhibit signs of illness, continue to increase the amount of food through the day. If discharged on the day of surgery, only offer small amounts of food and water after 8 pm. If your pet becomes sick to her stomach, discontinue food until the next morning.

**Medications:** Your pet will be discharged with medication. Begin all medications the day of discharge unless otherwise directed. Directions for medications are printed on each bottle. Please give medications as directed and for the duration recommended. Please observe recommendations for giving with food if stated.

**Incision Care:** Please check the incision daily. Some redness and swelling is a normal consequence of surgery and healing. If the incision becomes painful, opens or discharges pus or blood, please call the clinic for a re-check. A small amount of clear fluid may ooze from the incision and is considered normal. DO NOT allow your pet to lick, chew, rub or pull at the incision. If she does, you must stop the behavior right away and begin using the e-collar you were sent home with. If you do not have a collar at home, please pick one up from the clinic at the earliest ability.

For the next 10 to 14 days, your pet will have skin sutures or surgical glue with internal sutures at the surgery site. We request that you do not bathe your pet while the sutures/surgical glue are present. Additionally, **all exercise** should be kept at a minimum.

The incision will need to be rechecked and sutures, if present will need to be removed. We ask that you call us to schedule an appointment several days in advance to have the incision checked and sutures removed. Generally, there is no charge for removing the sutures.

If swelling, excessive reddening, licking, or other signs of infection occur, or if you have any questions on your pet's condition, please contact us.

Thank you for allowing us to provide your pet with the best care possible. She was a wonderful patient and we wish her a quick and easy recovery. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call us at 770-887-3119