

FOOD/WATER

- Offer normal amounts of water.
- To avoid stomach upset from anesthesia, do not offer food right away to adult animals. After 2 to 3 hours you may offer small amounts of food. Start with offering $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the normal amount, but do not be concerned if your pet does not want to eat right away. If vomiting occurs, remove food until morning.
- Puppies/kittens (under 6 months) can be offered food and water upon returning home. Only give $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of normal food for the evening. If vomiting occurs, remove food until morning.

PAIN MEDICATION

- Your pet received an injectable pain medication, which lasts for 12 hours. You will need to start the pain medication approximately 12 hours after surgery.
- Do not mix any other pain medications with the anti-inflammatory that was sent home.

MONITORING

- Keep your pet in a confined area away from other pets and children for the rest of the day. Rest and sleep are essential for healing!
- **You must keep your pet from licking the incision.** If your pet is allowed to lick the incision, it will open the surgery site and cause infection. If your pet cannot be restrained from licking, we recommend an E-collar, which fits around the neck and prevents licking. You can buy an E-collar from us. Repairing self-inflicted damage to the incision site will be at the owner's expense.
- Spay and neuter sites have internal sutures, so there are no sutures to be removed.
- If your pet is sleeping a lot 24 hours after surgery, this is normal. Allow them to rest.
- Older pets usually take longer to get the anesthesia out of their system, so longer recoveries are expected.

WHAT IS NORMAL

- Shaking is normal the evening after surgery. Providing a warm quiet place to rest will help alleviate shaking.
- A small amount of blood around the incision is normal immediately after surgery. You will not see any stitches, only surgical glue, which is blue and provides protection for the incision.
- If your pet has sensitive skin and has razor burn from shaving the surgical site, you can place aloe on the skin.
- The breathing tube can cause minor windpipe irritation resulting in post-surgical gagging or coughing. If these symptoms last more than a few days, please call me.

If you are ever unsure about your pet's recovery, please call me as I am happy to help! 406-344-3215



FOR THE NEXT WEEK

- Keep your pet in a clean environment that is quiet, warm, and dry. House your pet indoors.
- Restrict your pet's activity. Walk dogs only on a leash and discourage running /jumping for 7 days.
- Check your pet's incision daily. **A firm, small swelling under the skin is a normal inflammatory response to the sutures under the skin and will get smaller over several weeks.**
- Do not allow your pet to lick the incision site.
- If your pet is wearing an E-collar, do not remove for 7 days; they can eat and drink with it on.
- Do not wash or clean the incision. Do not bathe or get your pet wet for 7 days.
- Keep males and females separated. They may try to breed for several weeks after surgery, and neutered males can be fertile for up to six weeks after surgery.
- Female dogs that were in heat can continue to have bloody discharge for 2-3 days after surgery.

PLEASE CALL ME IF: • Your pet is unable to stand or walk 12 hours after surgery. • Your pet is not eating or drinking 24 hours after surgery. • There is significant swelling or bleeding at the incision site. • Your pet is exhibiting symptoms of significant discomfort or lethargy 48 hours after surgery.