



## POST-SURGICAL RECOVERY FOR DOGS AND CATS

Keep your pet quiet, and restrict their activity as much as possible for the next WEEK. No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activities. **Your pet should have NO contact with children (including yours) for 24 hours after discharge (ie. until 5 pm next day).**

Pets should be kept indoors during that period, where they can stay clean, dry and warm. Dogs must be walked on a leash when going outside, not allowed to run free. **NO BATHS FOR THE NEXT 10 DAYS.**

Appetite should return gradually, within next 24 hours. Lethargy (laziness, exhaustion) lasting for more than 24 hours post-surgery and/or diarrhea, vomiting and/or bleeding is **NOT NORMAL**. See your veterinarian if these symptoms are present.

Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days following surgery due to intubation irritation. If coughing continues for more than a few days, contact your veterinarian.

Do not change your pets diet or feed anything unusual (such as human food) to get them to eat. Feed them their normal dog or cat food. Anesthesia can frequently cause mild stomach upset, and a change in diet will only make that worse.

**DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK AND/OR CHEW AT THE INCISION SITE.** If you notice them doing so, an Elizabethan collar (cone) must be worn. They can be purchased at most pet supply stores.

**NEVER GIVE YOUR PET ANY HUMAN PAIN MEDICATIONS!!!** Animals metabolize drugs differently, and some common human medications can **POISON OR KILL** your pet. Please contact your vet if you feel that your pet is uncomfortable and needs additional pain medication.

Stitches will dissolve over a 2 month time period. There may be a hard bump that forms under the incision – this is normal.

Try to avoid picking up your pet too much during the next week to decrease stress on the incision site.

**MONITOR YOUR PET AROUND CHILDREN. YOUR PET MAY BE SORE, and as a result, MAY SNAP if a little one gets too close.**

Check the incision site twice daily. What it looks like at the time your pet leaves the clinic is normal. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. If you feel that something looks abnormal during the healing process, see your veterinarian for care.

Emergencies ONLY: (609) 635-7006