

Canine Post-Operative Care Instructions

WHEN YOU RETURN HOME...

- To avoid stomach upset from anesthesia, **do not feed adult pets for several hours**. After 2 to 3 hours you may offer **small** amounts of food, but do not be concerned if your pet does not want to eat right away. If vomiting occurs, remove food until morning. Offer normal amounts of water.
- Puppies (under 6 months) can be offered food and water upon returning home.
- Keep the pet in a confined area away from other pets and children for a day. Rest and sleep are essential for healing.
- Pain medication is usually started the morning after surgery, however if your pet seems uncomfortable it is ok to start the pain medication the evening after surgery. Please read and follow the written instructions on the bottle. Do not give aspirin, Advil or Tylenol to your pet for pain relief. These medications can be deadly.
- 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.
- 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 consult a veterinarian.
- You must keep your pet from licking the incision. 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.
- If your pet is using an E-collar, it may take time for them to get used to the collar.

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.
- 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.

We can schedule a recheck if you are concerned about your pet's recovery. Pro Pet Fix will provide free rechecks only for surgery related ailments. Self-inflicted problems (caused by licking, excess activity, etc) are at the owner's expense. Services rendered by other veterinarians will not be covered by Pro Pet Fix.

PLEASE CALL US 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.

In the event of a life-threatening emergency when Pro Pet Fix is closed, contact OC Emergency Pet Clinics in Fullerton at (714)441-2925 or in Garden Grove at (714)537-3032.