

CARE INSTRUCTIONS AFTER SURGERY

Surgery Day

- The day of surgery is an exhausting day for your pet. It is important to let them recover in a calm and quiet environment for a day or two.
- Continue to allow them to rest for the next 14 days so the incision can heal properly.
- Dogs will be sent home with oral pain medication to be administered by mouth starting the day after surgery.

Post-Surgical Pain Medication Information: Meloxicam or Carprofen (NSAID)

Your pet has been prescribed **meloxicam** or **carprofen**, which are **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)** used to manage pain and inflammation after surgery.

Possible side effects:

- Decreased appetite
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Dark or tarry stools
- Lethargy or low energy

If you notice any of these signs, stop giving the medication immediately and contact your veterinarian, especially if symptoms continue or worsen. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call your veterinary clinic.

Feeding instructions

- Kittens and Puppies (under 4 months)
 - Your pet was offered a small amount of food after surgery. Offer your usual food as soon as you get home. It is important to keep blood sugar levels high.
- Dogs and Cats (over 4 months)
 - Do not feed or offer water to your pets when you get home. After two hours you can offer small amounts of food, preferably soft food, if your pet does not vomit you can offer more food. If your pet vomits, wait two hours before offering food. **If he continues to vomit excessively, contact your veterinarian or an emergency clinic.**

What to expect after anesthesia

- As your pet recovers from anesthesia, it is normal for them to be tired (24-48 hours later), shivering, more sensitive to touch, or to have loose stools.
- These side effects should go away within 48 hours, but older pets may take a little longer to recover.

Activities

- **Don't let them** run, jump, or play during this time.
- Use a leash when taking your dog outside for the next 7 to 10 days.
- The animal must not bathe or swim for 14 days: **the incision must remain dry!**

Incision care

- No external sutures need to be removed, the skin is closed with tissue glue to make it feel firm and crusty. This will go away over time.
- Check your pet's incision when you get home and twice a day for the next 7 to 10 days.
- All dogs will be sent home with a plastic cone collar (also known as an Elizabethan collar). Dogs should wear the cone collar for 7 days to prevent licking the incision area. The cone collar is more effective and safer than the donut collar and the surgery suit. In general, we do not recommend these alternate items.
- Avoid letting your pet lick the incision; this could lead to infection or an open incision.

- For **females**, check for excessive bleeding or drainage at the incision site.
- The following things are normal:
 - Green dye - each animal receives a green tattoo indicating that it has been spayed/neutered.
 - Redness and swelling - should be minimal and improve each day.
 - In some cases a firm nodule will form at the incision site (seroma), this is normal and will resolve on its own in 3-4 weeks.

Questions, problems, and emergencies

- Any expense incurred for the care of your pet at a private veterinarian or emergency clinic is your responsibility.
- **If your pet requires immediate attention, please contact your nearest emergency clinic.**
- If you have any questions, contact your regular veterinarian.
- Potential emergencies include listlessness, pale gums, persistent bleeding, unusual bulging or drainage from the incision site.