



## Healthy Pet Hospital & Grooming

3411 E. Chapman Ave • Orange, CA 92869 (714)771-3261

### PRE AND POST OPERATIVE HOME INSTRUCTIONS



**PRE-SURGERY:** Do not feed your pet after midnight the night before your pet is scheduled for surgery. A small amount of water is okay for them to have in the morning. Since your pet will be having anesthetic with their surgery it is important to have an empty stomach. Please let us know if your pet accidentally got in to food or treats the morning of their surgery appointment.

**POST-SURGERY:** To avoid stomach upset from anesthesia, do not feed adult pet for the first 2 to 3 hours after picking up your pet from the hospital. 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. Remove food until morning if vomiting occurs. Offer normal amounts of water. Puppies/kittens (under 6 months) can be offered food and water upon returning home.

Keep your dog/cat in a confined area away from other pets and children for a day. Do not place them on a surface (bed, sofa, etc). Rest and sleep are essential for healing.

You may need to Leash walk, cage rest and or your pet may not be allowed to run, climb or jump for a certain period post-surgery.

Pain medication has may be prescribed for your pet. A 72-hour time-release injection may be given for pain to your pet.

A small amount of blood around the incision is normal. You may not see any suture material if SQ sutures where used to close and surgical glue used to close the superficial skin surface. The glue is blue and provides protection for the incision. SQ sutures do not need to be removed. They will dissolve over time.

Suture removal may be required in 10 - 14 days (no charge) or Drain Removal in 3-5 days (no charge)

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 our office.

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. It should be left on for 7 - 14 days. Please note that repairing any self-inflicted damage to the incision site will be at the owner's expense.

#### FOR THE NEXT WEEK...

- Check your pet's incision daily. A small amount of redness and swelling (a small lump) is normal, but please call our office with any questions or concerns.
- Do not wash or clean the incision. Do not bathe or get your pet wet for 7 - 14 days. If your pet requires bathing prior to this, please call our office and our experienced staff can bathe your pet.
- Keep males and females separated. They may try to breed for several weeks after a spay or neuter surgery, and neutered males can be fertile for up to six weeks after surgery. Spayed females that were in heat can continue to have bloody discharge for a few days after surgery.
- We can schedule a recheck if you are concerned about your pet's recovery. Pet Hospital will provide free rechecks only for routine surgery related ailments. Any services rendered by outside veterinarians will not be covered by Pet Hospital. Extensive surgery procedures include one brief recheck at time of suture removal. Further post extensive surgery rechecks will have to be paid for.

#### PLEASE CALL US AT (714) 771-3261 IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR:

- Your pet is unable to stand or walk 12 hour after surgery.
- Your pet is not eating or drinking 24 hours after surgery.
- Your pet is exhibiting symptoms of significant discomfort or lethargy 48 hours after surgery.
- There is significant swelling or bleeding at the incision site. A firm, small swelling under the skin is generally a normal inflammatory response to surgery and will get smaller over the next several weeks.

\*Follow-up/recheck appointments are not included in the price of your pets surgery.