



Phone: 356-5524; FAX: 358-4338

Client: {FULLNAME} Patient: {NAME} Date of Release: {CURRENTDATE[SHORT]}

**Homecare Instructions For
The Post-Operative/Post-Anesthesia/Post-Sedation Patient**

During your pet's convalescence, your pet will need special care. Please watch your pet carefully to avoid problems.

1. Your pet has received IV fluids while under anesthetic. When you return home, **if no vomiting has occurred, offer water in ¼ to ½ cup increments** (depending on your pet's size). When thirst is quenched, return to the usual free choice water (usually within two hours of arrival at home, if not sooner.)
2. Offer food, **about one quarter to one-half the usual amount avoiding overly-rich items**. Offer the second half two to eight hours later. By the next day you may feed normally.
3. If surgery included skin incisions/drains, **do not let your pet lick or scratch at the incisions**. Take note of how the surgery site looks when you pick your pet up from the hospital. If your pet does start to lick or scratch, wrap the area (using a handkerchief, dish towel, stretchy T-shirt, sock, etc.) and call us. If your pet has shown any tendency to lick or chew at sores or incisions, please ask us for an E-collar. Keep the incision/drain area clean of debris by gentle cleansing with warm water and a clean cloth once or twice daily.
4. **Restrict exercise for all post-anesthetic patients**. Increased motion may delay healing and increase the likelihood of complications. Remember, your pet will be convalescing for approximately 7 to 14 days.
5. The effects of sedatives and tranquilizers can last for a few hours to a few days. Variations occur due to age, body fat, and metabolism just as they do in people. If your pet seems sleepy or disoriented, protect your pet from falling off furniture, down stairs, etc. **Be sure your pet is in a quiet place away from the activities of the household**, and keep young children away from your pet until your pet is back to normal.
6. If an emergency develops after-hours, call the **Animal Emergency Center (775-851-3600)**. Report immediately anything that does not seem normal to you: abnormal or unexpected swelling, tenderness, lethargy, poor appetite, bleeding, etc.
7. **In the case of extractions or oral surgery**, a slight tinge of blood in the water bowl after drinking water may be expected for several days. **Feed softened kibble or other soft food for 3-7 days until the mouth heals. If in doubt, give us a call!**

Recognizing signs of pain in your pet:

- Vocalization (groaning, whining, growling, purring)**
- Facial expression (dilated pupils, furrowed brow, fixed stare, squinted eyes)**
- Body posture (hunched, rigid, abnormal positions)**
- Activity (restless, quivering, restricted movement)**
- Attitude (aggressive, fearful, timid, comfort seeking)**
- Appetite (decreased)**
- Urinary and bowel habits (increased urination, accidents in the house)**
- Guarding or self-mutilation (licking/chewing/rubbing affected areas, refusal to use affected area)**

Sutures/Drain to be removed: No__Yes__. If yes, date(s): _____

Date of **Recheck Appointment**: _____

Medications prescribed and When to start: _____

I have been advised of, and understand, the instructions for home care following the discharge of my pet. Signature of Owner/Agent: {CLIENTSIGNATURE}