



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 food and water** (depending on your pet's size for quantity).
- 2.** 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.), being careful of toes and extremities and call us if concerned. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4.** 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, downstairs, 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.
- 5.** Report immediately anything that does not seem normal to you: abnormal or unexpected swelling, tenderness, lethargy, poor appetite, bleeding, etc.

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: _____

*****Remember to remove the catheter bandage on your pet's leg 30 minutes after you get home.*****

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