



4800 W. 34th St. Suite C3 Houston TX 77092

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Your animal has just undergone a major surgical procedure and anesthesia may wear off slowly. Your pet may appear drugged this evening and will become more active and alert over time. Dogs may sleep and wake several times during the night following surgery and can act clumsy. Cats may hallucinate as anesthesia wears off; they may growl, claw at imaginary objects, and act strangely for up to 24 hours.

Anesthesia interferes with an animal's ability to regulate body temperature. Tonight, keep your pet confined to a small, safe area where it is warm and quiet. Do not put your pet on a bed or other high place. Separate your pet from other pets or small children for the first 24 hours following surgery.

Anesthesia can upset an animal's stomach. Offer food and water in very small amounts for the first 12 hours following surgery. Don't be concerned if your pet doesn't want to eat the first 12 – 24 hours following surgery. If vomiting occurs, remove food and water for 12 hours, then gradually reintroduce water. Once your animal is holding down water, gradually reintroduce a bland diet such as rice with their regular commercial dog food. Appetite should return within 24 hours of surgery. Do not change the animal's diet at this time.

Restrict your pet's activity for 7 days following surgery. Do not allow running, jumping, or wrestling with other pets or children. Keep your pet clean and dry for at least 7 days following surgery. Do not bathe or allow your pet's incision to become wet.

Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar (cone) **MUST** be applied to prevent additional licking/chewing that could cause an infection or opening of the incision. An Elizabethan collar (cone) can be purchased at a veterinary clinic or pet store.

Minimal redness and swelling of the surgery site should resolve within several days. Check your pet's incision daily for signs of infection such as discharge, swelling, and wound opening. Keep in mind that it takes at least 7 days for incisions to fully heal and some changes are expected. All sutures are internal and will dissolve on their own. If the incision appears to become inflamed, infected, or doesn't appear to be healing, please contact us or another veterinarian.

We will make every reasonable effort to treat any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please text 832-510-9431 during our business hours, Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Please note that we are not an emergency service and after-hours messages are not checked regularly; however, we do our best to respond within 24 hours.

Contact a veterinarian IMMEDIATELY if you notice ANY of the following: pale gums, lethargy, severe diarrhea or vomiting, discharge or bleeding from the incision, or labored breathing. **DO NOT GIVE HUMAN MEDICATION TO THE ANIMAL.** It is dangerous and can be fatal.

Please contact your nearest emergency clinic if you have any concerns after hours.