

General Surgery Discharge Instructions

Your pet was placed under general anesthetic, and may be groggy or quiet for the next 1-2 days. Please call us if this persists past 2 days. Please provide a quiet, comfortable place to rest for the remainder of the day.

ET TUBE

Your pet had an endotracheal (breathing or ET) tube placed for the procedure. You may notice some gurgling, coughing, or a hoarse voice for the next couple of days. If these signs persist, or if there is any trouble breathing, please contact the clinic as soon as possible.

DIET

Because your pet was placed under anesthetic, there may be some nausea or stomach upset. Please only feed a small meal tonight, and normal feeding can resume tomorrow. One episode of vomiting or diarrhea is ok, however if it continues please contact the clinic. If you have any questions regarding nutrition, please let us know.

INCISION

The incision will initially appear as a red line. Assess the incision daily - look for persistent redness, swelling, or discharge/oozing such as blood or pus. If you happen to notice any of these signs, please call the clinic. Please do not groom, bath, or apply any topical ointments or creams to the incision.

SUTURES/STITCHES

Your pet's sutures will either be hidden under the skin and dissolvable or will need to be removed after 10-14 days. One of our nurses will confirm if they need to be removed and schedule a suture removal appointment if required.

E-COLLAR

Your pet has been sent home with an E-collar to prevent licking and chewing at the incision, and should stay on for the entire healing process of 10-14 days. Pets can do damage quickly to the incision without an e-collar on. Although many pets struggle at first, they will quickly learn to eat, drink, sleep and walk with it on. Failure to prevent licking may require additional medications, or even another surgery to repair.

PAIN

Your pet had pain medication during surgery, and is going home with additional medication for the next few days. However, if you see any signs of pain despite this medication (being overly quiet or tense, reduced activity, licking, guarding or shying away from touching the incision, not eating), please call the clinic. We want them to be comfortable during recovery! Please do not medicate your pet with any over the counter medications, such as Advil, Tylenol, or Aspirin, as these can be toxic and do more harm than good.

EXERCISE

It is important to restrict exercise for the next 2 weeks to prevent any excessive tension on the incision. If this occurs, the sutures could break and the incision could unravel, and potentially requiring emergency surgery. After 2 weeks they can resume normal activity levels.

FOLLOW UP

We would like to see your pet back for a surgical recheck in 10-14 days. There is no charge for this visit so long as there are no new concerns.

If you have any concerns please call the Hillside Veterinary Clinic at (905) 895-6065.
After hours, please call the 404 Emergency Clinic at (905) 953-1933.