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After your pet has surgery, post-operative care is critical in terms of comfort, safety, and recuperation. Restricting your pets activity aids in healing, minimizes the risk of requiring additional corrective surgeries, speeds recovery and is vital to a successful outcome.

Although your pet may act normal following surgery, they tolerate pain differently than humans and still may be experiencing discomfort we don't visually see. Some people expect that an animal will vocalize when in pain but that's not always the case. Dogs in pain will be unable to settle down/rest or have excessive panting, while cats are more likely to hide and stop eating. Please make sure to complete ALL medications that are prescribed to your pet.

Incisions

Please keep incision clean and dry. Monitor the incision for swelling, oozing, drainage, pus, heat, bad odor, loose or missing staples/stitches. No ointment is needed unless otherwise suggested by the doctor.

_Your pet has buried skin sutures and does not need to return for removal. These sutures are absorbable and will dissolve on their own.

_Your pets incision has external sutures. These will need to be removed ___days post-surgery. Please call the office to schedule.

Bruising and Seepage:

Bruising is a common side effect of surgery but excessive bruising may be an indication to call our office. Also post-surgical oozing may occur for 12-24 hours post-surgery. If the incision continues to leak past this time, please contact our office immediately, as there could be an issue with the incision site.

Activity:

Restricting your pet's activity can be challenging, particularly when they begin to feel better, however it is very important. Please keep in mind that your pet cannot anticipate that certain activity might disrupt their recovery or cause major complications, and they do NOT have any innate sense of how much activity is acceptable. During your pet's recovery:

- Restrict activity for ___days
- Leash walk only
- No running, jumping up/down off furniture/counter tops, or climbing stairs
- No bathing for 10 days

Food:

Lack of appetite is normal post-anesthesia, however, if your pet is still unwilling to eat after 24 hours please contact our office.

Post-operative nausea is a common side effect of anesthesia. You can offer a small amount of food tonight, and return to normal feeding in the morning.

Dentistry and Oral Surgery:

Your pet may experience some swelling, bleeding and discomfort for 24-36 hours post-surgery. Please feed softened food for 3-5 days to reduce damage to affected area.

Bandages:

Bandages may slip or be chewed off in a matter of time. E-collars are recommended to prevent chewing. Should your pet chew the bandage it may interfere with healing.

Your pet is scheduled to have a bandage change/removal in ___days.

Intravenous fluids

Your pet received IV fluids today to allow a smoother recovery from anesthesia and keep them hydrated.

Licking and E-collar:

An e-collar may be prescribed if you notice your pet licking or chewing at their incision.

The following can occur if your pet licks/chews their incision. The incision will become irritated, creating an infection and delaying healing. Also, if your pet is chewing at the incision they will pull out stitches or staples.

If an e-collar is needed please call immediately before these issues occur.

Please notify our office if your pet is not interested in drinking 24 post surgery.

Medications:

Please make sure that ALL medications that have been prescribed are completely finished.

The following medications have been prescribed:

Start: _____