

Post-Surgical Care for Your Pet



Activity

DOGS: No running, jumping or rough play and no swimming or bathing for 14 days. You may take your dog on short leash walks several times a day. Male dogs, especially large breeds may experience painful swelling of the scrotum if they are too active. If swelling is noted, we may recommend applying a warm compress to the area for 10 minutes every 4 hours until swelling has gone down.

CATS: No jumping or rough play and no bathing for 14 days. Please keep male cats indoors for at least 3 days. Please keep female cats indoors for at least 10 days.

Pain Medication

DOGS: Give your pet's go-home pain medication **WITH A SMALL MEAL** and follow the label directions. Giving the medication with a meal will help prevent stomach upset. If your pet is not eating, do not give the pain medication.

CATS: Cats are given two different pain medication injections at the time of surgery and should not need any further medication. Please call us if your cat seems excessively uncomfortable.

DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL PAIN MEDICATION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF A VETERINARIAN. MANY HUMAN PAIN MEDICATIONS CAN BE TOXIC TO PETS ESPECIALLY IF COMBINED WITH THESE MEDICATIONS.

Food & Water

DOGS: Give a small amount of food (1/4 to 1/2 of their normal amount) and water to your pet when you get home. Do not let your dog gulp large amounts of water or eat too much food. If your pet vomits, wait 4 hours before feeding again, but offer small amounts of water. Watch for bloat in large breed dogs.

CATS: Give food and water to your cat when you get home. Call for veterinary advice if your cat is not eating for more than 24 hours after surgery.

Dentals

If your pet had a dental procedure, please follow the post-op instructions and give medication as directed. If your pet had extractions (teeth removed), it is important that you feed soft food only for two weeks to allow the mouth to heal. No hard treats, balls, tug or chew toys for this time as well.

Surgery Site

Check your pet's incision once a day. If it appears red, painful, oozing or swollen, please call the clinic during business hours or the emergency clinic if necessary. No suture removal is needed. Mild bruising may be present immediately post-op. A warm compress applied to the area for 5-10 minutes 3-4 times a day will help reduce the inflammation. You can warm a washcloth with water and place inside a plastic baggie to create a warm compress. Do not get the incision wet and ensure the compress is not too warm.

Your pet has been given a no-lick collar (e-collar) to prevent him/her from licking the surgical site. **WE RECOMMEND YOUR PET WEAR THE COLLAR AT ALL TIMES FOR THE NEXT 14 DAYS.** Your pet's collar may need to be removed for eating and drinking. If your pet damages the collar or you need a replacement, additional collars can be purchased from the Clinic.

If your pet has active and excessive bleeding, is weak and cannot stand up, or has pale gums, these can be emergency situations that require immediate medical attention. We will only cover the cost of emergency post-operative complications at the locations below. You must notify them to contact us for approval. If your pet's incision appears irritated but is eating and acting relatively normal, these are usually non-emergencies and can wait for a recheck with the veterinarian in our clinic during regular business hours (*Contact us at 805-879-9705 to schedule a recheck*).

If you have any questions or concerns about your pet's surgery, please call us at 805-879-9705 during regular business hours.

Emergency hospital information:

South Santa Barbara County:

Advanced Veterinary Specialists Emergency Pet Care
414 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-729-4460

North Santa Barbara County:

Central Coast Pet Hospital and Emergency
1558 W Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805-489-6573