

Post-Surgical Home Care Instructions

Your pet has just undergone anesthesia and surgery. To ensure a smooth recovery please follow these instructions carefully. It is your responsibility to read and understand these instructions.

After anesthesia some animals cannot regulate their body temperature, so keep your pet inside for at least 24 hours, walking on a leash to go outside to go to the bathroom. Pets are to have limited activity including: running, jumping or playing for 7-10 days after surgery. It is important to remember that your pet will likely be drowsy for the first 24-48 hours following his/her surgery. If your pet seems lethargic, please contact a veterinarian.

Offer your pet small amounts of food and water as soon as you get them settled at home. If your pet has no problems keeping food down offer small amounts every few hours. Resume normal feeding the next day. Anesthesia can cause nausea which causes inappetence and mild vomiting, as well as drooling. This can occur for 24-48 hours after surgery. Continue offering food, as it can help with nausea. Any favorite food should be offered, or try special treats like luncheon meat, chicken, cheese, etc. Cats can be offered canned food, tuna, or other treats that will entice them to eat.

Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at their incision. Dissolvable suture is used to close the incision with special surgical glue used to secure the outer edges of the incision. Do NOT allow your pet to swim or be bathed for 10 days. Sutures can take 2-4 weeks to dissolve completely, so it can be normal for you to be able to feel sutures under the skin for weeks following the procedure. Damage caused by licking can require further medical attention at your expense. An Elizabethan collar (e-collar or cone) can be purchased at your local pet store or from Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit. The cone must extend 1 1/2 - 2 inches past your pet's nose to limit access from the tongue. A small amount of bruising, redness and swelling can be normal. Check the incision daily, if there are concerns about swelling, exposed suture, openings, or discharge, please contact us.

Pain medication is available from Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit at your request or if our vet feels it is necessary due to the procedure that was performed. Do NOT give your pet any medication for pain without speaking with your Veterinarian. Pets are given a 24 hour post-operative pain injection, and take-home pain medication is typically started the morning after surgery. This will be a small additional charge. Pain medication is to be given only as directed. Please be sure to follow instructions on your prescription label. These medications can have side effects such as vomiting or diarrhea, and occasional blood in stool. If stomach upset occurs, it may be recommended that medications are discontinued. Some medications can be purchased from local pharmacies if requested.

If any of the following conditions occurs please contact your private Veterinarian or local emergency animal clinic immediately:

- Loss of appetite from more than two days.
- Refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours.
- Blood coming from incision.
- Vomiting or Diarrhea for more than 24 hours.

Please note, Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit is not responsible for any costs associated with post-op veterinary care. Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit will not reimburse you for any post-op veterinary care resulting for not following these instructions. Please call Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit if you have concerns. We will try to return your call in a timely manner, but we do not offer 24-hour emergency veterinary services. If you need emergency care, please consult your private Vet or seek care at an Emergency Animal Hospital. Here is a list of hospitals that may be able to give you assistance:

Tucson Emergency Hospitals:

- VCA Valley @ 4984 E 22nd St, Tucson, AZ 85711, (520) 748-0331
- Southern Arizona Veterinary Central @ 141 E Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 888-3177
- Southern Arizona Veterinary East @ 7474 E. Broadway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85710, (520) 888-3177
- Pima Pet Clinic @ 4832 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85712, (520) 327-5624
- VSCOT @ 4909 N La Cañada Dr, Tucson, AZ 85704, (520) 795-9955