DR. KELLY'S
SURGICAL UNIT

Post Surgery After Care - Cats

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 please keep your pet inside for at least 24 hours (ideally 10-14 days for outdoor cats until their incision is fully healed). Pets are to have limited activity including running, jumping, and playing for 10-14 days after surgery. This can be achieved with sedatives and/or keeping your cat in a large kennel, small room, or bathroom with a litterbox during recovery. It is important to remember that your pet will likely be drowsy for the first 24-48 hours following his/her surgery.

It is common for cats to be dysphoric in the first 12-24 hours after anesthesia. This can look like agitation, restlessness, vocalization, hiding, and/or decreased activity levels. Pet owners often confuse these signs with their pet being in pain. How quickly your pet metabolizes the medications will determine how long this dysphoric phase will be. Your cat was given a post-operative pain injection after their surgery. Please follow the instructions written on your prescription label for information on how much and when to administer additional medications dispensed. DO NOT give any additional medications or adjust any of these medications without first discussing with your veterinarian. A written prescription for certain medications can be provided upon request.

Offer your pet small amounts of food and water as soon as you get them settled at home. Continue offering small amounts every few hours as tolerated. Normal feeding can resume the next day as long as your pet is doing well. Anesthesia can cause nausea, which secondarily may cause inappetence, drooling, and occasional vomiting during the first 24-48 hours after surgery. Many of the medications we use can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and blood in the stool. Bland diets, as well as veterinary probiotics (Proviable, Fortiflora, etc). can be helpful to offer if this occurs. Any favorite foods and treats can be offered to entice eating, but should be limited due to the possibility of further gastrointestinal upset. If GI upset continues, please contact us to discuss next steps.

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. This glue can look like a white film around the incision. There may be a small green tattoo to signify your pet has been altered. Male cat incisions are intentionally left open to drain and heal. Mild bleeding from the scrotum can be normal. DO NOT allow your pet to swim or be bathed for 14 days. If your pet has sutures, it can take weeks to dissolve completely, so it is normal for you to be able to feel sutures under the skin following the procedure.

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 1.5 - 2 inches past your pet's nose to limit access from the tongue. Damage caused by licking may require further medical attention at your expense. If your cat has a lid on their litterbox, please remove the lid while they are wearing the e-collar. If your pet does not tolerate the e-collar, a surgical suit/onesie may be used alternatively. Please ensure the clothing covers the incision and your pet is able to urinate and defecate normally while in place. Please check your pet's incision daily. A small amount of bruising, redness and swelling can be normal.

If any of the following conditions occur, please contact us (for after hours care or immediate attention, please see your local emergency animal clinic):

- Excessive lethargy
- Loss of appetite for more than two days
- Refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours
- Excessive swelling, bleeding, exposed suture, discharge, and/or opening of incision
- Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Pale mucous membranes (gum color)
- Difficulty breathing

Please note, Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit is not responsible for any costs associated with post-operative veterinary care. Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit will not reimburse you for any veterinary care resulting from not following these instructions. Please call us at 520-636-7387 if you have any concerns and we will try to return your call in a timely manner. We do not offer 24-hour emergency veterinary services and are not a full service veterinarian. We prioritize our surgical care and low costs. For this reason, we are limited in our medications and diagnostics and may refer you elsewhere if additional care for your pet is needed. If you have immediate concerns, please seek your local emergency animal clinic or primary care veterinarian.

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