Post-Operative Instructions

Thank you for bringing your pet to LSNC!

Your pet has been under general anesthesia for a surgical operation. Your pet will probably be sleepy for the next two to twelve hours. Your pet was given an injectable pain medication that will last for 24-hours after surgery, but it is important to start any oral medication you were given tonight.

There are no sutures that need to be removed. Unless otherwise noted, all sutures are dissolvable, and under your pet’s skin. Your pet’s incision was sealed with surgical glue. **Absolutely no licking of the incision area is allowed. Do not give your pet a bath or allow them to swim in water, and do not allow them to rough-house for 7 days after surgery.** Keeping your pet inside and calm will allow the incision to heal and minimize risk of infection.

If your pet is licking its incision, please get a cone (Elizabethan collar) immediately. You may come back to our clinic to purchase one, or you can pick one up at any pet store. They must wear it at night, and any time you are not able to supervise them.

- **When you get home, bring your pet to a quiet, warm area where they can rest.** You can give a small amount of food and water once your pet has settled down. Too much food, water, or excitement can cause your pet to vomit. Felines may seem bad-tempered or make very jerky movements after experiencing anesthesia. These symptoms should decrease and resolve within 24–48 hours.
- **The evening of surgery, begin any oral pain medication you were given.** Continue to give the medication every day as instructed on the prescription label.
- **Every day after surgery, check your pet’s incision for swelling, leakage (blood or pus), or bruising.** Do not apply any cleaner or ointment to the incision. Call us at (804) 379-9725 option 2 and leave a voicemail if you have any concerns.
- **For the month after surgery, please keep your pet away from adult, intact pets.** Although your pet cannot reproduce, mating activity could injure your pet.

**This is normal.**

- Your pet may be tired or sedate for 24 hours.
- They may act differently, particularly cats.
- There may be slight swelling as the incision site.
- There may be slight bruising at the incision site.
- There may be a firm bump where the body is reacting to the internal sutures. This will disappear in 30-90 days as the sutures dissolve.

**This is NOT normal.**

- Lethargy (sleepiness) or depression that lasts more than 24 hours.
- Excessive swelling, which may be a result of too much activity – keep your pet calm.
- Blood, pus, or fluid leaking from the incision site, or the penis or vagina.
- Pain at the incision site.
- Vomiting, diarrhea, or difficulty urinating.
- Pale gums.
- Labored breathing (panting without physical activity).

If you notice any of these symptoms, call (804) 379-9725 option 2.