

Pet's Name _____ Procedure _____ Discharge Date _____

Magazine Street Animal Clinic **Home-Care Instructions**

When your pet arrives home, he/she should be allowed to recover in a quiet, warm, and familiar place. Some pets go home fairly energetic, while others may be more quiet or even groggy. Even if your pet seems to be feeling fine, it is important to keep things low-key for the first 24 hours. **Please follow these instructions for your pet:**

Food/Water:

- Wait at least 1 hour after arriving home, then you can offer a very small amount of water and no more than ¼ of his/her regular meal. If all goes well after an hour, another ¼ to ½ size meal can be offered. Continue to limit amount of water consumed at one sitting through tonight. Don't be worried if your pet doesn't seem interested in food; appetite should increase by 24-48 hours after surgery. If vomiting occurs, withhold food and water for several hours, then offer very small amounts at a time. It may even be preferable to wait until the morning to try again.
- Regular food and water can be given.
- Feed softened or canned food for _____ days.
- Other: _____

Activity:

- RESTRICT EXERCISE. No running, jumping, or bathing/swimming for 7-10 days. Walk on leash only. Avoid stairs and jumping on and off of furniture. This is important to reduce post-surgical swelling and to keep incision from having to endure too much straining.
- Normal activity WITHIN REASON.
- Keep totally confined to a kennel. Very short bathroom trips only on a short leash. Carry up & down stairs or towel-walk large dogs.
- Follow *Physical Therapy Instruction* papers provided.
- Other Restrictions _____

Incision or Wound Site Care:

- Watch incision or wound for excessive swelling/redness/drainage. Some mild swelling/bruising may be expected, but call if there is any change that seems excessive. **Discourage licking & chewing!** An Elizabethan collar may be needed if excessive chewing cannot be stopped.
- Other: _____
- Keep Elizabethan collar on at all times.

Medication: (bottles will have detailed instructions of medication directions.)

- No medications are indicated.
- Give pain medication as directed. (**Next dose:** _____)
- () FOR CATS :** Medication syringe **will stick!** Loosen by gently moving plunger up & down before trying to dispense drops !!!
- Give antibiotics as directed: (**Next dose:** _____)
- Other: _____

Follow Up:

- Medical Progress Exam** in _____ days.
- Suture/Staple removal** in _____ days. **Discourage licking & chewing at incision!**
- Suture removal is **NOT required**, buried/absorbable or no suture material was used.
- Bandage change or removal in _____ days. **Keep bandage clean & dry at all times!** Cover foot or leg bandages with plastic when going outside. Monitor for any odor, discharge, or signs of sudden pain and report any of these to hospital immediately!
- Remove tape "band-aid" from leg (I.V. catheter site) later tonight.
- Other: _____

Monitoring:

A decrease in activity or appetite for one or two days may be observed and patients may not have a bowel movement for 24 to 36 hours after surgery. This is normal. However, if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms, please notify the hospital : (1) loss of appetite for over two days, (2) refusal to drink water for over one day, (3) weakness or depression, (4) vomiting or diarrhea, (5) signs of fever.

* In the event of a true medical emergency and the doctors cannot be reached, please contact the emergency clinic for assistance : Southeast Veterinary Emergency, (504) 219-0444 at 3409 Division Street in Metairie off Veterans Blvd. behind Barnes & Noble.

I have read and understand the above discharge instructions. The doctors and assistants have answered my questions to my satisfaction.

Signature of owner or authorized agent

Date

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE CALL US AT (504) 891-4115 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.