

Lee Veterinary Clinic, P.C.
Hawley, MN
218-486-5660

Care of Your Pet Following Surgery

Pets Name: _____ Procedure: _____ Discharge Date: _____

Proper Restraint: Please protect your pet when leaving the hospital by using either a leash or a carrier. Excessive activity may result in your pet getting loose or result in injury if your pet is recovering from surgery.

Food and Water: With the excitement of returning home after surgery, your pet may be inclined to drink and eat excessively, which may likely result in vomiting. To avoid this, we recommend restricting access to water for an hour or so until your pet has quieted down. Then, allow only small amounts of water and food for the first 8 hours. Normal feeding may resume the next day.

Elimination: Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24-36 hours after surgery. This is normal.

Monitor: A decrease of appetite for one or two days may be observed. However, if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms, please notify the hospital: (1) Loss of appetite for over 2 days (2) Refusal to drink water for over 1 day (3) Weakness (4) Depression (5) Vomiting (6) Diarrhea (7) Bleeding (8) Excessive drainage from incision.

If Your Pet Was Spayed: Please discourage your pet from running or jumping for 2 weeks while their abdominal muscles are healing.

If Your Cat Was Declawed: Please use only pelleted or shredded paper in the litter box instead of regular cat litter for 7 days after surgery. This is recommended to avoid getting cat litter imbedded into the declaw incisions. Please note that some cats can have sore feet off and on for up to 3 months after being declawed. Jumping should be avoided for 2 weeks after surgery as this can cause the incision to come open.

Incision Care: Please discourage your pet from licking at his/her incision site. If your pet is licking excessively, he/she may need to wear an e-collar. Keep all incisions clean and dry for 10 days. Baths and swimming should be avoided during this time.

Stitches: ☐ Your pet has stitches that will need to be removed in 10-14 days.
☐ Your pet will NOT need to have stitches removed.

Special Instructions:
