

Highland Veterinary Clinic

Post-Surgical Care Instructions

Basic Instructions:

Topical Medication or an E-collar can be employed if your pet licks his sutures excessively, or chews at any bandaging material. Some occasional normal grooming of the site is to be expected, but obsessive behavior or constant grooming may be damaging.

Many pets will not have a bowel movement for 1-3 days after surgery, and may not have a normal, strong appetite. This is normal, provided your pet is acting normal in all other ways. If unusual constipation is suspected after that time, give one teaspoon of cooking oil per 25 lbs of body weight once daily.

We recheck all surgery sites in 7-10 days. If your pet has staples or sutures that are not absorbable, please do not wait much after that period as this will make removal far more difficult.

There is no additional charge for this procedure unless sedation is required.

Bandage changes will occur on a case by case basis, and we should instruct you as to when we would like to see your pet again for a bandage change.

We use absorbable sutures in most all routine surgeries but like to ensure that your pet is healing properly by checking the site in the above 7-10 day period. Again, these rechecks and suture removals are not charged.

For orthopedic patients:

Bone pin removal may be required in 6-10 weeks. There will be additional charges for the anesthesia, procedure, supplies, and medications required.

Recovering well is a top priority:

Please call the clinic at **any** time that you have a question or concern. Our major concern is the comfort and healing of your pet. We will do everything possible to ensure her recovery as quickly as possible at the least expense to you. Please remember that pets do not often understand what is going on and may cause self-inflicting damage to herself. We must charge for any and all drugs and medication. Unexpected problems beyond our control include, but are not limited to: infection, wound dehiscence or chewing out of sutures.

Diet:

- ◆ No food is advised until the morning after surgery
- ◆ Offer a few laps of water every 15-30 minutes only for the first 6 hours after you take him home, then you may offer water freely.
- ◆ The morning after the surgery, you may feed your pets regular diet without special considerations, unless a prescription diet has been prescribed. Even the day after surgery, no food is recommended because your pet will have received food here. **Caution:** it is not advisable to overfeed your pet in the days following surgery.
- ◆ Surgical patients recovering from gastrointestinal disorders may be advised to use a bland transitional diet in the days following surgery.

If vomiting does occur, withhold food and dogs may have Pepto Bismol at a dosage of 1 teaspoon per 20 lbs of body weight. **PLEASE NOTE THAT PEPTO BISMOL AND MANY OTHER HUMAN MEDICATIONS ARE CONTRAINDICATED FOR CATS.** If your cat experiences any continuous gastrointestinal upset please call the doctor. Call the hospital if vomiting continues in any patient after 2 hours. Give nothing else by mouth as long as vomiting continues.

Activity:

Drowsiness may be noted today and tomorrow, but not usually after 48 hours. Medications that involve sedation or pain intervention, may cause some drowsiness depending on the type. Keep your pet in a protected environment so that she doesn't get hurt.

NO HEAVY ACTIVITY UNTIL NEXT RECHECK VISIT, including but not limited to: running jumping, climbing stairs etc. Permissible activity includes walking outside on a leash only. Animals that are not instructed to confinement may pursue normal activities within reason. Animals required to be confined may need all good limbs exercised 2-3 times daily to prevent stiffness, and gently massaged 2-3 times daily to improve circulation.

Incision Care:

Watch incision for swelling, redness, or drainage. Apply nothing to the site without permission. Prevent excessive licking. Do not attempt to clean the incision, do not give patient a bath until incision area is rechecked in 7-10 days.

Medication:

Give pain medication as directed. Your pet should really not need a refill. If "Recovery SA" is dispensed, you may keep the unused portion and re-use it any time your pet suffers from a soft-tissue injury, or as a supplement for arthritis treatment. All other types of pain medication should be discarded. All antibiotics should be used as directed until they are gone regardless of whether your pet is "feeling better."

Bandages, splints, and orthopedic patients:

Keep clean and dry. Tape a plastic bag around the bottom of the splint or bandage when he goes outside to keep it clean and dry. Notify the clinic if you observe any severe swelling, odor, or discharge. Please check the toes for swelling or numbness and the area around the splint or bandage daily. Keep outdoor pets indoors for obvious reasons and discourage chewing. Call the clinic if this becomes a potential problem. Walk on a leash outdoors only. After orthopedic pin removal, the patient should be used to walking on the repaired leg in a few weeks. Call if she does not. Cruciate ligament and luxating patella patient should be walking on repaired legs in a few weeks following surgery. Call the hospital if he or she does not use affected leg.