



## **Postoperative Care After Abdominal Surgery**

### **1. Exercise Restrictions**

Keep your pet inside until the sutures have been removed and healing is complete. No off leash (dogs) activity during this healing period!

**2. Some swelling or** bruising along the wound may be observed which is not unusual. As healing progresses, the swelling can move outward and the bruising may spread. You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection IF:

A: The wound becomes very swollen or discharges a yellow or green material.

B: Your pet becomes very depressed or lethargic.

Sometimes the wound will ooze some blood during the first 24-48 hours at home. You should not be alarmed at this; you can hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding.

An Elizabethan collar should be placed on your pet if he/she attempts to lick or chew the wound/sutures.

### **3. What is a normal postoperative course?**

Your pet may be offered water 8-12 hours after surgery. If no vomiting occurs, a small amount of bland food may be offered 12-24 hours after surgery. Please follow up with your veterinarian re: any pending lab/pathology reports. Some pets experience diarrhea or constipation after general anesthesia - things usually return to normal within 5-7 days after surgery

The sutures may be removed in approximately 12 days.

\* Please continue medical treatments as directed by your regular veterinarian. Follow up laboratory evaluations may be recommended to monitor progress and recovery. Pending laboratory test results (cultures, biopsies, etc) may be discussed with your veterinarian. Changes in medical therapy based on these results may be necessary.