



Instructions following your pet's elective surgery:

- Pets going home after receiving sedation and/or anesthesia can still be groggy and unstable on their feet. They may need a little extra help getting around until tomorrow morning. Take extra precautions around stairs, and be sure not to leave pets unattended on furniture.
- Cats can be very stressed even after arriving home; open their carrier in a quiet space and allow them to come out on their own. Hospitalized cats also may need to be separated from other cats in the house, until they no longer smell like the hospital, if fighting is observed.
- Your pet may be sore after their procedure, a small amount of discomfort is normal. If your pet's discomfort/pain is preventing them from doing their normal activities, please do not hesitate to call the office for pain medication. Some pets will automatically be prescribed pain medication, depending on the procedure. Be sure to follow all instructions printed on the label, and report any side effects to the doctor.
- You may notice your pet cough for the next day or two, sometimes the ET tube used causes slight irritation in the trachea. This is normal and will resolve within a couple days.
- Restrict strenuous activities for 10-14 days (until the sutures are removed). Leash walk dogs when outside to avoid running/jumping/rough playing; use a crate when needed indoors. Keep cats as inactive as possible. Animals that normally live outside may need a temporary indoor area prepared. Some pets may go home with calming medication, follow all instructions on the label.
- Keep a close eye on the incision site. Watch for any signs of swelling, redness, or drainage. Firm swelling under the incision site may indicate a reaction to the suture material - this is acceptable. If there is swelling around the incision that is soft and feels like a water balloon, please call for an appointment so the doctor can check the area. We encourage owners to take pictures of the incision if they have questions and text them to our office number, 856-696-4440.
- One of the most important parts of your pet's post-surgical care is preventing them from licking their incision. E-collars (cones) should be properly fitted and worn by the pet at all times; smaller pets may wear a surgical suit, be sure a technician helps with fitting your pet. Larger dogs may be able to wear a t-shirt in some cases, as long as the incision is covered.
- The sutures should be removed in 10-14 days, please schedule a complimentary technician appointment. Depending on the time of day and appointment flow, it should only take a few minutes. In some cases, the sutures are dissolvable and do not require removal - incision care must still be followed in these cases.
- Your pet may be excited about eating when they arrive home, but please wait at least 1 hour before feeding them. Sedation and anesthesia can cause some nausea and vomiting, especially if large amounts of food and water are given at a time. Start by offering small amounts of water at a time, more can be given as long as there is no vomiting. Offer about 1/2 of your pet's normal meal time food. Some pets have a decreased appetite for a day or two after surgery - this can be normal - please call the office if this lasts longer than two days.
- Sedation and anesthesia can cause diarrhea or constipation. Hospitalized pets may void their bowels during their stay, do not be concerned if you do not see your pet defecate for a day or two. If you observe symptoms of diarrhea or constipation that last longer than 48 hours, please call the office.
- When a pet has been hospitalized, their resistance is lowered and they may need a little extra attention. For the next several days, feed carefully, observe eliminations, and protect them from undue exposure such as getting wet or chilled.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any part of the recovery process, please do not hesitate to call the office - (856)696-4440.