

Carolina Crossing Veterinary Clinic, P.A.
11760 NC, 210 Suite 110
Benson, NC 27504
(919) 934-7729
www.carolinacrossingvet.com

POST SURGICAL HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet has undergone major surgery today . It is important that you provide your pet with the appropriate care, the following information will help you to care for your pet during his or her recovery.

- 1. Diet- NO FOOD TONIGHT, provide adequate amounts of water, but don't let your pet gulp large amounts at first.** Anesthesia can cause nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting. Young puppies and kittens (under 16 weeks of age) may have a small amount of food this evening.
- 2. Exercise- Keep your pet calm, quiet, and INDOORS,** preferably in a climate controlled area for at least the first 2-3 days after surgery, as your pet will have trouble regulating his/her body temperature for a period of time immediately following the anesthetic procedure. Trembling and shaking can be normal side effects of the anesthetic and can take up to 24 hours to subside. Restrict your pets activity for 7-10 days, leash walking outdoors is okay, but no running, jumping, climbing, etc. Your pet may be groggy tonight, and may want to sleep a lot.
- 3. Monitor the incision-** Check daily for the next 10-14 days. Your pets sutures (stitches) are all internal, and do not need to be removed. Check for swelling, bleeding, or abnormal discharge. Mild or firm swelling indicates the incision is healing, and is normal, as long as your pet is eating and drinking and seems otherwise normal. Some pets may want to lick the incision, this should be discouraged. You can use an E-collar to prevent excessive licking which can be purchased from the clinic, or at some large chain pet stores. **Male cats** have an open incision and may spot blood for the first 24 hours. This is normal, however, you may want to confine them to a small area such as a bathroom.
- 4. Emergencies-** You should be concerned if you notice any of the following:
 - *Your pet seems lethargic, depressed, experiences excessive vomiting, or if your pet is not eating, after the first 24 hours at home.
 - *Abnormal discharge or bleeding from the incision , or excessive swelling or redness.
 - *Tearing of the internal sutures, resulting in an opening of the incision.**IF YOU NOTICE ANY OF THE ABOVE YOU CAN REACH THE DOCTOR 24 HOURS AT (919) 417-8708. LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM, AND THE DOCTOR WILL RETURN EMERGENCY CALLS WITHIN 15 MINUTES. If for any reason you are unable to reach the Doctor, please contact The Veterinary Specialty Hospital of the Carolinas in Cary, NC at (919) 233-4911. (24 hours)**
- 5. Follow up-** If your pet received vaccinations today, he or she may need follow up care and booster vaccinations. Puppies and kittens under 16 weeks of age need boosters every 3-4 weeks. Adult dogs which have never been vaccinated will need a booster in 3-4 weeks. We encourage you to schedule these appointments in advance. Please call our office to schedule at (919) 934-7729
- 5. Questions????-** Please call our main office number during regular business hours and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have at (919) 934-7729.