Abdominal Surgery Discharge Instructions

Your pet has just undergone abdominal surgery and has sutures in the abdominal muscles which will dissolve over time. Your pet received an anesthetic so they may still be a little sleepy tonight. Please keep them indoors, confined, and away from stairs unless they are supervised until fully recovered.

Feeding:

1. Offer ½ of their usual amount of food tonight. We recommend waiting at least an hour after they arrive home to allow their stomach to settle.
2. Offer water in small increments to help prevent vomiting.
3. Your pet can return to normal food and water amounts tomorrow.

Monitoring:

1. Please check the incision daily for signs of redness, swelling, discharge, or excessive pain or heat. If any of these are noted, please call our office for further instructions.
   a. Bruising of the tissue surrounding the surgical site is common and can be normal.
2. If your pet stops eating, vomits or becomes lethargic during normal office hours, please call our office at 704-636-3408 to speak with a team member.
   a. If these symptoms occur after normal office hours, please contact Cabarrus Emergency Hospital. They can be reached at 704-932-1182.
3. If you notice your pet licking or chewing the incision, try to discourage this behavior verbally. If you are unable to control this behavior, please be sure to use the e-collar that has been provided to you to help prevent your pet from irritating the incision.
   a. An e-collar has been provided today as part of the recovery treatment for your pet. It is imperative that this stay on at night when you are asleep and any other time you are not in direct supervision of your pet.
   b. By not using the e-collar, you may complicate the healing of your pet and incur additional expense as a result.
4. Please do not bathe or allow your pet to swim for 14 days or, if applicable, until the external skin sutures have been removed.
5. FOR CATS: we recommend using shredded paper in the litterbox for the next two weeks.

Suture Removal:

1. If external skin sutures were placed, please make an appointment in 10 days to have the sutures removed.
**Exercise:**

1. Please keep your pet indoors or kenneled to help reduce activity.
2. Please limit your pets’ exercise for 7-10 days after surgery. Your pet should not run, jump, or play with other animals.
   a. Dogs should be walked on a leash for short periods of time rather than free roaming to allow the muscles to heal and keep the risk of bleeding to a minimum.
3. Your pet may return to normal activity 10-14 days after surgery.

**Medication:**

1. Please administer the prescribed medication(s) in accordance with the directions on the label.

**Anesthesia Notes**

1. Some pets experience euphoria and show odd behavior hours to days after a procedure. This can be normal and should resolve without further treatment.
2. For your pets’ safety, he/she was intubated. You may notice some coughing for the next couple of days. This is normal due to a small amount of irritation to the throat from the endotracheal tube.
   a. If coughing seems excessive, please contact our office at 704-636-3408.

**Specific Abdominal Procedures:** all of the above instructions also apply in addition to the information provided below.

- **Exploratory:** Your pet has just undergone surgery to explore the abdomen for T
- **Cystotomy:** Your pet has just undergone surgery where an opening was created in the wall of the urinary bladder. This procedure allows the surgeon to look inside the bladder. Some blood-tinged urine is expected for the first few days, but obvious pain, straining or a lack of urination is not normal and should prompt a call to your veterinarian.
  - **Bladder Stone Removal:** Bladder stones are rock-like formations of minerals that develop in the urinary bladder.
- **Pyometra:** Your pet has just undergone surgery to remove the infected uterus and ovaries.
- **Splenectomy:** Your pet has just undergone surgery to have the spleen removed.
- **Nephrectomy:** Your pet has just undergone surgery to have a kidney removed.
- **Nephrotomy:** Your pet has just undergone surgery to remove a kidney stone.
- **Gastrotomy/Enterotomy:** Your pet has just undergone surgery in which the GI tract was opened to remove a foreign object.
  - Diarrhea can be common following this procedure.
    - Please contact our office if this persists for more than a few days.