Ophthalmic (Eye) Surgery Discharge Instructions

Your pet has just undergone surgery on or around the eye. The tissues surrounding the eye may be swollen for a number of days following the surgical procedure.

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. The tissues surrounding the eye may be swollen for a number of days following the surgical procedure.
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. The surgical site may be tender and irritated which may cause your pet to want to scratch or rub the area. 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 clean the incision site daily by gently applying a warm, moist compress to the area.
5. Please do not bathe or allow your pet to swim for 14 days or, if applicable, until the sutures have been removed.
6. 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.
2. In some cases, sedation may be needed to remove the sutures due to the proximity to the eye. If it is more convenient for you, you may consider dropping your pet off for a brief period-of-time to accomplish this.
   a. The suture removal is complimentary but there is a charge for sedation if it is necessary.

**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 rough-house or play with other animals.
   a. Dogs should be walked on a leash for short periods of time rather than free roaming.
3. Your pet may return to normal activity 10-14 days after surgery.

**Medication:**

1. If your pet was prescribed additional medication, please administer the medication 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 Ophthalmic Procedures:** all of the above instructions also apply in addition to the information provided below.

- **Cherry Eye Tuck:** Your pet has undergone surgery to reduce the protrusion and inflammation of a gland behind the third eyelid. This gland produces some of the moisture for the eye, so we did not remove it. The gland has been tacked to the deep tissues surrounding the eye so that it does not protrude and continue to be inflamed or bothersome. It is common and normal for the pink tissues around the eye to look swollen and inflamed just after and for a number of days following the surgery. This swelling should subside slowly. Any sutures that were used for this surgery will dissolve over time.
  o A re-check appointment will need to be scheduled for 14 days following the surgery to monitor your pet's progress.
• **Enucleation:** Your pet has undergone surgery to remove the eye. The entire eyeball and some of the surrounding tissues and muscles have been removed. The eyelids were also removed so that permanent closure could be accomplished. The surgical site should be monitored closely for swelling, bulging, and/or drainage. If these are noted, please contact the office for further instructions.
  o If there are external skin sutures, please clean the incision daily by gently applying a warm, moist compress to the area.

• **Entropion:** Your pet has undergone surgery to correct a condition in which the eyelid rolls inward and allows hair to rub on the eye. The tissues surrounding the eye may be swollen for a number of days following the surgery.
  o Please clean the area daily by gently applying a warm, moist compress to the area.

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