



Post Operative Care Sheet

1. **THERE MUST BE NO LICKING OF THE SURGICAL INCISION FOR 14 DAYS!!** If your animal begins to lick you will need to put an E-collar on to protect it. If it is not convenient for you to get an E-collar here, you can buy one at Petco or PetSmart.
2. Please allow your animal an opportunity to use the bathroom after you pick them up. They may not feel like moving around much later in the evening; and would appreciate the chance to go before they get settled in for the evening.
3. Your pet may still be showing effects of the anesthesia when you take them home. This can include seeming groggy or sleepy, incoordination when walking, and unfamiliarity with their surroundings. This is normal, and should diminish with time.
4. Your pet will need a warm, quiet area to recover in. We recommend keeping your animal separated from children and other pets until the day following surgery. Cats can be particularly sensitive to noise and activity following anesthesia – we recommend setting aside an entire room for them to recover in quietly.
5. When you first return home, your pet can have a small amount of water. You can feed them around 5-7 PM with approximately **1/3** their regular amount of food. Some animals do not want to eat the day of surgery. **If your pet is not eating or drinking the day after surgery, please call our office.**
6. You will not need to return for a suture removal after surgery. The suture material we use is meant to dissolve on its own over several weeks to months. As the body begins to react to the suture material (usually within 5-7 days of the surgery) there can be a firm painless swelling under the skin and adjacent to the incision. This is normal and should resolve within a couple of weeks.
7. There should **NOT** be any discharge, severe swelling or extensive redness around the incision. If you notice any of these, please call Lakeside Animal Hospital.
8. **For Dogs** – no baths, swimming, or any activity that puts the incision in contact with moisture for 14 days after surgery. Also try to keep activity restricted for those 2 weeks- leash walking is fine, but avoid jogging with your dog, playing fetch, or rough play with other dogs. We recommend your dog not go to the dog park for the 2 weeks following surgery.

PLEASE NOTE: If your pet has a post-surgical issue, you must contact Lakeside Animal Hospital for assistance. Lakeside Animal Hospital will not pay for any services incurred through other veterinarians.

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