

AT HOME CARE:

ACTIVITY RESTRICTION:

Please keep Your Pet strictly confined for the next 2 weeks after surgery. This is a crucial period of time for initial healing. Your Pet should be confined to a small room or pen with non-skid flooring. The area should be free of furniture which Your Pet can jump on. Your Pet should not be allowed to run, jump or play within the home or outside at anytime. You may keep Your Pet on your lap or on a leash when you are directly monitoring Your Pet, but care should be taken to avoid jumping or entangling in the leash. Common issues that arise with confinement include: responding to the doorbell ringing, playing with other animals in the home or reacting to an animal outside a window. Please do your best to avoid these situations.

STAIRS:

Use of stairs should be limited or if possible avoided. If Your Pet is small enough to carry up and down the stairs, then please do so. If Your Pet is larger then you should control Your Pet on leash up and down the stairs. My recommendation is to envision each step as a single event instead of allowing Your Pet to try to ascend the entire staircase rapidly. It may be beneficial to utilize a sling under the hind end during this time for assistance.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY:

For the first TWO weeks after surgery, you should think of Your Pet as being on strict bed rest and they should only go outside for 3-5 minutes at a time for bathroom purposes. During this time, they should remain on leash at all times to prevent an unexpected event like chasing a squirrel that has jumped from tree. Your Pet should remain on areas with good footing and/or use a sling to prevent loss of balance. It may take up to FOUR days for Your Pet to defecate. This is normal due to fasting prior to surgery and opioid pain medications.

INCISION MONITORING:

The surgical incision should be evaluated on a daily basis for evidence of infection or opening of the incision. Signs of infection include increased reddening, heat, swelling, pain or discharge. If any of these signs are observed please call Your Primary Care Veterinarian for further instruction. During the first 2-3 days, the area around the incision may have increased swelling or bruising. If at any time, the degree of bruising or swelling is concerning, please do not hesitate to call.



Your Pet should not be allowed to lick, chew or scratch at the incision. An Elizabethan collar or alternative deterrent has been dispensed to stop this behavior. This should be utilized at all times until otherwise instructed. Generally, the deterrent is used until after Your Pet's incision check in 10-14 days. Even a single licking event can lead to an infection which can require additional surgeries or extended antibiotic courses.

No bathing should be allowed until the incision has been re-evaluated and appropriate healing is confirmed. We will discuss this at the 10-14 day recheck visit.

SOFT FOOD DIET:

Your Pet should be fed only canned food or kibble soaked for 15 minutes in water for the next ^ weeks. During this time, Your Pet should not be allowed to chew on any toys, sticks or other items to prevent additional trauma to the mouth. SEDATION:

Your Pet was sedated today. Your Pet may be sedate this evening. Please keep Your Pet in a safe place away from stairs or areas where they may slip and fall. You can feed Your Pet 4 hours after getting home, but should have a small meal to avoid stomach upset.

RECHECKS:

INCISION CHECK:

Please make an appointment with Your Primary Care Veterinarian for an incision check in 10-14 days.