



# Community Medicine

## Post-Operative Discharge Instructions

### Post-Operative Helpline: 857-350-8723

#### Remainder of today:

- An exact pick-up time will be provided by a Spay Waggin' team member the morning of your pet's appointment. If pets are not picked up at the appropriate time, they will be brought back to one of our animal care facilities; there will be a \$30 late fee charged per pet.
- Keep your pet **warm and dry** for the remainder of today.
- Your pet may be groggy. They will continue to become more alert throughout the afternoon and evening.
- Offer your pet their normal dinner tonight, however, do not be alarmed if they are not interested. Contact us if they still do not seem interested in eating after 24 hours.
- Your pet may have been intubated today. It is normal if your pet coughs for the next few days.
- Check your pet's incision when you first get home and once before bedtime. Cats should be confined to a quiet room (ie: bedroom or bathroom) with their litterbox and food/water until the following morning.
- **All pets should wear an Elizabethan cone collar (lamp shade cone) after surgery.**

#### Reduce your pet's activity level:

- **Dogs should ONLY be leash walked** for the next 14 days. No running, climbing, ball-chasing, rough-housing, or playing with other dogs during this recovery period. Also avoid jumping on/off couches and/or beds.
- **Cats should be kept indoors** for the next 14 days. Try to limit play and excessive grooming especially if there are other cats in the home. If you have multiple cats who underwent surgery, or multiple cats in the home, please keep them separated as much as possible for the 14 days.

#### Incision care

- You must **check your pet's incision 2x daily (morning and night)**. Incisions are located on the abdomen for females and near or on the scrotum for males. Check for any bleeding, pus, seepage, swelling or opening of the incision. Some females develop a walnut size swelling on or at the incision site - this is normal and common especially in young cats/dogs.
- **Keep your pet from licking the incision. This is extremely important. Please purchase an Elizabethan cone collar (lamp shade cone) from a pet supply store and place it on your pet after surgery.** Your pet should wear it for 14 days. It is important that the cone is the appropriate size and prevents your pet from licking their incision. The cone should fit around their neck properly and extend past their nose.
- The incision must be kept dry for the next 14 days. Do not bathe your pet or apply any products to the incision.
- **A small green tattoo will be applied near the umbilicus (belly button) of each pet (except male dogs will have their tattoo by their groin).** This green tattoo is a permanent indicator that your pet has been spayed or neutered.
- Your pet does not need to return for suture removal. All sutures used are dissolvable and internal.

#### Follow up care

- We are committed to the health of our patients and need to know of any issues regarding their surgery. If you have questions or concerns regarding your pet's surgery, **FIRST** call the **Post-Operative Helpline and leave a message.** **We cannot guarantee pets can be seen for post-op concerns after 3pm on Fridays.** **This phone number is NOT monitored over weekends or holidays.** **Services performed at another facility will be at your own cost.**

#### Post-Operative Helpline

Mon-Thurs 7am-5pm

Fri 9am-5pm

**857-350-8723**

*(Appointments 877-590-7729)*

#### Veterinary Urgent Care Centers

Braintree: 617-481-5197

Plymouth: 774-608-7016

Easton: (508) 817-5088

**veturgentcare.com**

#### Westbridge Veterinary Referral

Hospital

595 W. Center St.

West Bridgewater, MA 02379

**Emergency: (508) 584-1600**

We encourage you to seek out a relationship with a veterinarian for the long-term health of your pet. Your pet should be seen annually by a veterinarian.

*The Animal Rescue League of Boston is funded entirely by donations. Please consider donating to the Animal Rescue League of Boston so that we may be able to continue to offer this important service to others.*