



Your pet has undergone a minor or possibly major surgery. We have used the very best in surgical, anesthetic and pain relieving techniques to insure he / she is safe and comfortable. Now the rest of his / her recovery is up to you; some instructions to follow are listed below and we are only a phone call away. **815-636-7297**

Unless given different directions by the Doctor; the night after surgery – about 8pm offer a small amount of water. He / she may throw that up. If they do, wait a bit longer then offer small amount again. If they keep that down go ahead and offer some food, make it a small meal for the night. Next day feed regular amount. All animals recover from anesthesia differently and some might not want to eat for up to 48 hours after surgery. **Remember, drinking water is more important than eating right after surgery.**

Each animal recovers from anesthesia at a different rate. Some animals are back to normal within 12-24 hours, while others takes as long as 3-4 days to recuperate. On the day after surgery, you may start slow leash walks for dogs but **no heavy running or playing can occur until sutures are removed! Females should be crated the night after surgery to restrict movement that may tear stitches.**

For Dental cleanings: if teeth are removed, soft food or hard food watered down lightly is recommended for a few days after surgery; depending how many teeth are left, it may be better to stay on soft food for the rest of the animal's life. You may notice red or pinkish tint to the animals' drinking water – a little bit is normal – if a lot please contact us ASAP.

Keep checking the incision frequently until it is completely healed. Things to watch for include: swelling, oozing, pus, redness, bad odor, loose / missing stitches, or cuts. Sometimes after surgery a slight hard swelling may develop directly under the sutures, this is part of the healing process. The hard spot will dissipate over a period of 4-8 weeks. Please do not hesitate to call us if you are unsure if the surgical area looks normal. We will be happy to check the site free of charge. **Do not** let your pet lick the incision, as licking can introduce infection or pull the stitches out. The old myth of saliva being helpful or having anti-bacterial properties is simply not true.

A follow-up appointment is required to have sutures removed, or simply a progress exam performed by the doctor. **Be sure to make this appointment with us ASAP** to ensure proper care of the surgical site. Once sutures are removed, you may give your pet a bath and they can resume normal physical activity.

Follow the instructions on your pets prescription labels to know how much to give. Call us if you have questions. Your pet may have been given antibiotics and pain relief. If the antibiotics are discontinued early, the infection may return stronger than before and with more immunity to the medication.

Do not give any medication or supplements without first discussing it with Dr. Patel. Such drugs as aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil) can be toxic to most animals & can cause serious side effects like major gastrointestinal bleeding, vomiting and in some cases even be fatal.