

Elizabethtown Area Animal Hospital

Discharge Instructions : Abdominal Surgery Procedures for <animal>

Surgery charges do not include pre-anesthetic examination, pre-op. meds, anesthetic(s), and/or gas anesthesia, hospitalization, nursing care and medications. These items are itemized separately on your invoice.

POST SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS: Unless instructed otherwise, follow these general instruction during the recovery period. Try to limit excitement when <animal> gets home.

1) **Water:** Wait a half hours after getting home; start with a SMALL amount of water.

Limit water to 1/4 the normal amount every 2-3 hrs for the first 8 hours.

2) **Food:** Feed 3 – 4 small meals per day, increasing the volume of food each meal over the first 2 – 3 days. Start with a bland diet of chicken or lean beef and rice [1 part meat to 3 parts rice] blenderized to baby food consistency or mashed with broth to a fine consistency. Another food such as a/d or i/d may be dispensed. Follow the same general instructions unless advised otherwise.

3) **Anesthetic:** Each animal recovers from anesthetic at a different rate.

Some animals are back to normal within 12 -24 hours, while others take a few days to fully recuperate.

4) **Exercise:** We realize it may be difficult to restrict <animal>'s exercise

However, you should discourage <animal> from jumping and vigorous activity for a period of 3 weeks after surgery. The best way to achieve this is to walk her on a leash

5) **Bleeding:** Sometimes a small amount of bleeding may occur at the incision site. This happens because of blood "pooling" underneath the skin. A few drops of blood followed by cessation is normal. Please call the hospital if the bleeding persists.

6) **Licking the Incision:** Animals will often lick the incision site. This is usually due to itching caused by being closely shaven. Occasionally, it may be as a result of the suture material.

As long as the sutures are not pulled out, this licking is usually harmless, but should be avoided. Excessive licking can lead to an infected incision. If a problem is developing in this regard, please call the hospital.

Applying Vick's Vapor Rub around the outside of the incision may help stop licking.

7) **Sutures:** Return in 10 – 14 days to have <animal>'s sutures removed.

There's NO charge for this service. An appointment is needed for the removal.

8) Please notify the hospital if <animal> develops any of the following:

- a. Vomiting after 24 hours.
- b. Diarrhea
- c. Refusal to eat after 24 hours.
- d. Severe pain or skin irritation.
- e. Continuous licking or pulling at the sutures.
- f. There is a change in <animal>'s general health or behavior.

Any question, please call the office 367-7156