

Home Care Notes for \_\_\_\_\_

Today I was in hospital for a  Sedation/Anaesthetic and \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure that I have a smooth and speedy recovery, please take note of the following guidelines:

**Rest and Confinement**

- it is normal for me to be subdued, sleepy, anti-social and not quite myself for up to 24 hours following a procedure
- drowsiness will make me more vulnerable, wobbly and anxious, so confinement is for safety reasons
- keep me indoors overnight, preferably caged, to limit activity and access to hazards and interference from pets or kids
- I will need a soft, clean bed at floor level, in a warm, draught-free, dark and quiet room with the windows and doors closed

**Things to Note**

- I may develop a mild cough from the tube inserted to assist with breathing during surgery, this will disappear in a few days
- I may also have a small area of clipped fur on my leg from the IV catheter, blood pressure cuff and/or blood test

**Eating, Drinking and Toiling**

- ensure that clean, fresh water is within easy reach at all times and my head cone can fit over my food and water bowls
- tonight, if I am alert, give me a small quantity of soft food - I may refuse food or vomit after eating as result of the drugs
- toileting should be done in a confined space, a litter tray on the floor for cats and outside, supervised, on a lead for dogs
- changes to toileting frequency and consistency can be expected for 24 hours

**Activity**

- dogs must be walked ON LEAD ONLY until suture removal in 10-14 days and cats should be kept indoors for 7 days post op
- running, jumping (including in and out of cars), rough play, chasing balls and tugging must be restricted following stitch-ups and surgeries and no bathing and swimming is allowed

**Medication**

- please read labels carefully to ensure meds are given as instructed regarding dosage, frequency and with or without food
- if given with food, ensure that the meds are ingested completely, not eaten by other pets and not expelled with vomit

**Daily Wound Care**

- check daily that my wound is dry and clean – the vet recommends wearing an Elizabeth Collar (Cone) 24/7 for 10-14 days
- please note: cat spays (sutures to be removed in 10-14 days); cat castrations (open incisions, heal naturally in a few days)

**Revisits:**

please bring me in for a free post op check in \_\_\_\_\_ days \_\_\_\_\_

please bring me in for a free removal of stitches in \_\_\_\_\_ days \_\_\_\_\_

please bring me in for a bandage change in \_\_\_\_\_ days \_\_\_\_\_

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONTACT THE CLINIC FOR ADVICE OR AN APPOINTMENT IF:**

Your pet is uncharacteristically lethargic, grumpy, agitated, anti-social or in obvious pain

Your pet has excessive vomiting or diarrhoea or is still refusing food and/or water after 12 hours

The wound is bleeding, weepy, swollen, red, gaping or the sutures or bandage have been tampered with

Your pet is licking or chewing at wound, sutures or bandage

You have difficulty administering medication

You have any other concerns or questions

*Thank you for trusting us with the privilege of caring for your pet.*