

What to Expect Post-Operatively at Home

Once a patient is ready to go home for rest and recovery, our doctors and staff will meet with you to talk about what to expect in the upcoming days. We will give you instructions for care that will help your pet recover as smoothly and quickly as possible.

- Incision line
 - Discourage your pet from licking or chewing the incision site.
 - Check your pet's incision line at least twice a day. Check for swelling, redness and discharge
 - Call with any questions or concerns. We may need to see the pet in order to assess the incision line.
- Medications
 - Give any medications as directed. Please contact us if you have any problems.
- Exercise
 - Limit exercise as your pet recovers from surgery. Block stairs and discourage jumping. Your pet may remain groggy for 12 hours due to the anesthesia.
- Feeding
 - To minimize the chance for vomiting, feed your pet only small portions of food and water for the first 8 hours after returning home. Follow any special diet instructions given by the doctor.
- Monitor
 - Watch for bowel movements, these may be delayed for 1-2 days post-surgery
 - Watch for any discomfort the pet may have; we can adjust pain medications if necessary
- You may observe decreased activity or appetite for 1-2 days after surgery. However if your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact the hospital immediately:
 - Loss of appetite for more than 2 days
 - Refusal to drink water for more than 1 day
 - Diarrhea
 - Weakness
 - Vomiting
 - Depression
- Declaws
 - Please use shredded newspaper in the litter box for 3 days following your cat's declaw. This will decrease the chance of infection or irritation from litter dust.