

# Aftercare Instructions Following Anesthesia, Surgery and/or Hospitalization

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- Food & water: you can offer a small amount of food and water a few hours after you get home. If your pet does not vomit you may offer after a few hours. If they do vomit, please wait until the next day to feed a normal meal.
- Exercise: Keep YOUR PETS ACTIVITY RESTRICTED FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK! We realize it may be difficult to restrict your pets exercise. However, you should discourage them from running, jumping, and other vigorous activity. It is recommended that you keep your pet on a leash when going outside during this time.
- Anesthetic: Each animal recovers from anesthetic at a different rate. Some animals are back to normal within 24 hours, while others can take as long as 3-4 days to fully recuperate. Unfortunately, vomiting can be a problem after anesthetic and will usually resolve within 24 hours. If it persist past 24 hours please contact us.
- 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 a veterinarian if the bleeding persists. If there is any drainage from the incision call a veterinarian. The main reason for drainage is that your pet is too active or is licking at the incision.
- Licking the incision: Check the incision daily for swelling, redness, or discharge. DO NOT LET YOUR PET LICK THE INCISION AREAS!!If the incision appears irritated or infected, notify us immediately. A properly fitting **E-COLLAR** will also keep your pet from licking an incision.
- Sutures: If we have used visible sutures on your pet please make an appointment within 14 days for suture removal. There is no charge for routine suture removal. A small amount of swelling at the incision site is normal and is due to healing of the abdominal muscle. If you feed the swelling is excessive, please call.
- Please notify us if your pet develops any of the following:
  - Draining or discharge at incision site
  - Vomiting after 24 hours
  - Diarrhea
  - Refusal to eat after 24 hours
  - Severe pain
  - Continuous licking or pulling at the sutures
  - Change in general health or behavior
  - The phone number for Great Lakes Pet Emergency is (989) 752-1960 for after hour concerns.