  
***Please call or text at (330) 305-6500 with any questions or concerns!***



Go Home Care For Your Pet following Surgery

**ANESTHESIA:**

* Your cat may act confused or seem groggy. This is due to the anesthesia and is normal for 12-24 hours. This should continue to gradually get better throughout the next few hours.
* Protect your cat on your trip home by using a carrier. Excessive activity may result in your cat getting loose or result in injury to your pet. Once home, confine your pet to a small, temperature controlled, safe area away from stairs or situations that may result in injury. Your cat should be secluded to only small areas for the first 24 hours.
* Shaking and trembling can be a normal side effect of the anesthesia wearing off. This should resolve within 24 hours.
* If your cat received a pain injection, it would last for 24 hours. The medication used does not have any sedative effects and will not make your cat “loopy”.
* Your pet should be 100% back to their normal self-48 hours from surgery.
* Anesthesia can cause nausea/vomiting even when the animal may want food. Allow only small amounts of food and water for the first 8 hours. The evening following surgery, once your cat is settled from your car ride home, offer a small amount of food and water then continue to feed small meals several times a day for the next few days.
* Vomiting is common post-anesthesia complications. 1-2 episodes of vomiting the night following surgery is very normal. If vomiting occurs, restrict food and water for a few more hours. If more than a few times or vomiting persists into the following day, this may result in dehydration. Please call us.
* If medication is sent home, follow the instructions on the medication label. Start medication the day following surgery unless noted otherwise.

**RESTRICTING ACTIVITY:**

* Patients recovering from surgery should have limited exercise.
* Confine your cat to a smaller and safer area for healing time. Strenuous activity like running, jumping, or playing could disrupt the healing process and can cause the incision to swell.
* Too much excitement in the first 48 hours for male cats can cause the incision clot to come loose resulting in a new clot to form
* Gradually allow your cat to return to normal exercise and activity. Your cat may resume normal exercise in 14 days.

**FEMALE INCISIONS:**

* Female cats have a midline incision on their abdomen. **CHECK INCISON DAILY.**
* Absorbable sutures are used to close the incision and are broken down by the cat’s body over time. Your cat does not need to return to have anything removed unless you are told otherwise during discharge.
* Surgical glue is used on the skin to protect against bacterial infection. Keep this area dry to avoid the glue from dissolving prematurely.
* A normal healing response to the absorbable sutures is a firm swelling (or seroma) to develop at the incision site after several days and can persist up to 2-3 weeks.
* Check the incision site daily and monitor for swelling or discharge.
* Keep your female cat away from any un-neutered males for a minimum of 7 days to allow healing.
* Do not allow your cat to lick or chew the incision site. If this happens, you may need to purchase your cat an e-collar (Elizabethan collar)
* Keep the incision dry. Do not apply any creams, medications, or ointments to the incision.

**MALE INCISIONS:**

* Male cats have scrotal incisions underneath their tail. They do not have any sutures or closure of their incision site. This incision site is left open to allow for drainage if necessary. The body will create a clot at the incision internally and form its own closure. **CHECK INCISION DAILY.**
* It may appear as if your cat still has testicles: this can be normal. Swelling should go down gradually throughout the recovery period. If swelling does not go down within a few days, please contact the clinic for a no charge recheck visit.
* Any bumps and bruises present should decrease in size and appearance throughout the recovery period.
* Minimal spotting of bloody discharge or several drops of blood can be normal in the first 24 hours (especially on larger cats). Large amounts of blood or continuous bleeding will likely need medical attention.
* Keep your cat away from un-spayed females. Neutered males can get an un-spayed female pregnant for up to 30 days after surgery.
* Do not allow your cat to lick or chew at the incision site. If this happens, you may need to purchase your cat an e-collar (Elizabethan collar).

**MONITOR FOR COMPLICATIONS:**

* Post-surgical complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling of the surgery site should resolve within a few days. If it persists longer or continues to get worse, please contact us.
* More serious concerns post-surgery include:
* Pale gums
* Depression
* Unsteady gait or weakness (continuing after anesthesia wears off)
* Vomiting (more than what can be normal as listed above)
* Refusal to drink water for more than 1 day
* Loss of appetite for more than 2 days
* Labored breathing

Declaw Discharge Instructions

**WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY**

Your pet may experience:

* Your pet may have some tenderness for the first several weeks. This will show as an occasional funny gait or seem unbalanced when jumps/lands. Once they get acclimated this will subside.
* Your pet may lick or excessively groom the incisional areas, this is expected and encouraged. By doing this they will help remove any excessive scabbing over time and help the suture removal process (see section on incisions below regarding the sutures). Unless they are causing bleeding or openings, there is no need for concern.
* Your pet had a strong topical pain medication applied before going home, called Zorbium. This lasts for four days. You may notice their eyes are dilated or they seem "twitchy", that is due to the medication and once it is out of the system it will go away.

THE DOCTOR RECOMMENDS CHANGING TO A SPECIAL LITTER TO HELP PREVENT CONTAMINATION TO THE INCISIONS. WE RECOMMEND EITHER YESTERDAY'S NEWS OR FELINE PINE FOR 14 DAYS POST THE PROCEDURE. SHREDDED NEWSPAPER OR PAPER IS ACCEPTABLE AS WELL. REGULAR CLAY LITTER CAN GET CAUGHT IN THE INCISIONS AND CAUSE INFLAMMATION AND INFECTION.

**THE INCISIONS**

**The Doctor placed sutures in each toe area. He would like those to stay in until they fall out on their own and that can take upwards of 6 to 8 weeks, if not longer. We are not concerned with the sutures unless they start to cause problems or seem like an issue to the pe**t.   
  
Monitor your pet for the following:

* Any excessive bleeding or discharge
* Swelling
* Foul odor coming from incision areas

If you notice any of the above, please contact the clinic and we will give you guidance as to what to do or if we need to reevaluate the areas in person. 

Please note we recommend that your cat remain indoors with short supervised outdoor sessions only. This is because a declawed cat has a decreased ability to defend itself if left outside.  
  
Your pet does not require any dietary changes post-surgery.