

SURGERY FAQs

My pet is having surgery tomorrow and I forgot what I am supposed to do!

No food after midnight but you can offer a little water up until the time you bring your pet in that morning. Please ask us about giving medications the morning of surgery.

Bring your pet in at the scheduled time. If you have any additional questions we will be happy to answer those for you at that time.

I tried hard to remember what instructions I was given when I picked up my pet, but I am not sure I remember everything.

All pets will go home with written instructions. You can refer to those. The following may also help you as well.

- **When do I start giving the medications I received?** Almost every surgery or procedure will go home with some type of medication. AM medications will have been given at the hospital, and generally pm medications will need to be given. The prescription bottles should be clearly labeled as to when to begin your pet's medication. If you are unsure please call us at 419-455-0470 during office hours.
- **My pet's voice seems dry and he's coughing, is this normal?** Yes, your pet had a tube in his throat during surgery that provided fresh oxygen and gas anesthesia. It is normal to experience some irritation for the next couple of days.
- **My pet is really thirsty and hungry, how long am I supposed to wait to offer food and water?** Allow your pet to calm down and re-acclimate to his home surroundings. You can then offer a **small** amount of water, wait a little bit and if that stays down then you can offer a little more. Don't let them drink a whole bowl of water! If the water stays down, you can then offer a small amount of food. If your pet does not seem interested in food that evening you can wait until morning to offer food. If he is not interested in the morning or is vomiting we want to hear from you.
- **Do I really need to keep my dog on a leash?** We ask that all pets that have had surgery be walked on a leash for at least the next 14 days unless we have told you something different. Even if you have a fenced in yard, we ask that you put your pet on a leash. The more active your pet is, the longer it will take for the incision to heal. Short controlled walks are okay, just try to keep your pet as calm and relaxed as possible during recovery. Also if your kitty goes outdoors we ask that you keep her inside until the sutures are removed.
- **My pet wants to lick his incision, that's okay, right?** No! It is extremely important that your pet leave his incision alone or it will not heal. Licking causes inflammation which will quickly lead to infection and it's likely your pet will remove all of his skin sutures if left to lick his incision. If he succeeds he will require more surgery! Look at the incision several times throughout the day. If

he is licking the incision and it appears red and swollen please contact us so we can get you an e-collar for your pet. He will get accustomed to it and will only need to wear it until the sutures are removed. It is much less expensive than additional surgery.

- **When can the stitches be removed?** Since animals are much more active than people when it comes to recovering from surgery, we keep the sutures in for a full 14 days. The suture removal will be done by a technician for no additional cost; we simply ask that you make an appointment so we know when to expect you. If you are not available on the exact day the sutures are due to come out, no problem. Keeping them in a little longer is fine, just schedule when you are available.
- **You recommended replacing my cat's regular cat litter with Yesterdays News while her feet heal. She is not using her litter box, now what?** First, you should try putting a small amount of your cat's regular litter in with the Yesterdays News. Make sure you check her toes and keep them clean. Gently remove any kitty litter that might stick to her incisions.
- **Once I have my pet spayed or neutered won't it calm him down?** Spaying or neutering your pet has little effect on his basic personality. Many people interpret normal maturity as "calming down". Another thing people worry about is spaying a female dog and causing her to become fat and lazy. While the surgery does seem to result in a slightly decreased metabolism, making sure your pet gets the right amount of food and exercise will have a much greater impact on her weight.

If you don't find an answer to your question, you are always welcome to call the office and speak with any one of our staff members. We are available by phone Mon-Fri from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sat from 8:00 to Noon. We look forward to your call.

419-455-0470