



704 Kings Highway, Brooklyn NY 11223

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DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

EFFECTS OF ANESTHESIA:

Your pet has been given a general anesthesia, which may not be completely worn off.

- Your pet may not have a bowel movement for 1 or 2 days following surgery. This is normal if all else is normal.
- Your pet may be a little lethargic or disoriented for up to 24 hours. This is especially true of heavy or older patients.
- The anesthesia may also cause some nausea and/or stomach upset. You should offer a small amount of water the first night home, a 1/3 -1/2 portion of food the tonight, and finally back to a full meal the next morning. Your pet may not eat well for 24-48 hours.

ACTIVITY:

It is best to restrict play and exercise for the first week following surgery.

- Upon returning home, you should confine your pet to a small room or crate that is clean, warm, comfortable, and away from other pets or children in the household.
- Outdoor activity should be limited to short, leashed walks to eliminate, quickly returning inside to a small confined recovery area.
- In order to keep the suture site intact, your pet should avoid the following activities for the next 10-14 days:
- Running/Jumping
- Climbing stairs
- Climbing on furniture
- Rough-housing
- Bathing or swimming
- Discourage excessive licking or chewing of sutures/staples. If your pet is a licker or chewer, we recommend that an Elizabethan Collar (E-collar) be worn until the surgical site is completely healed. This device may be purchased at a local pet supply store or through the clinic.

SURGICAL SITE:

Please inspect the surgical site at least once daily.

- A small amount of redness and swelling is normal as is a little bleeding for the first day.
- If you notice any of the following, please notify the clinic staff immediately:
- Unusual swelling
- Missing sutures/staples
- Gaping of incision edges
- Excessive redness or irritation
- Bleeding for more than one day
- Excessive discharge or bleeding
- Anything else that seems abnormal or “not right”
- Male cat neuters do not have sutures but the site should be examined on a daily basis.

ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR:

Please notify our staff immediately if any of the following occur:

- Diarrhea
- Refusal to eat after 48 hours
- Vomiting after 24 hours at home
- Acting odd or seems “not right” in any other way
- Signs of severe pain (Some mild discomfort is to be expected. Pain medication is optional)
- We depend on your care and observation to ensure your pet heals properly. In the event of an unusual reaction or situation please call the hospital at once. If all is normal, we will see you and your pet at the re-check exam.

GROOMING:

Do not give your pet a bath for 10 days. Water can get into the incision and cause infection.

MEDICATION:

If medication is sent home, be sure to follow the directions precisely and read the information sheet provided. If your pet experiences any unusual reactions to the medication, discontinue use and notify the clinic staff immediately. An alternative medication may be available. **DO NOT give Aspirin, Tylenol, or other over-the-counter pain medications.**

RE-CHECK EXAM/SUTURE REMOVAL:

Sutures/staples are to be removed 10-14 days after surgery unless the doctor directs otherwise. Male cat neuters have no sutures to remove, but a recheck exam is recommended to assess your pet’s progress. There is no charge for this procedure unless tranquilization is needed or there are complications that require treatment.

CAT LITTER:

If your male cat was neutered, the incision is always left open to heal without stitches. Therefore, cat litter may get kicked up into the incision and cause infection. We recommend using shredded newspaper for 5 days post surgery. This is not necessary for female cat spay procedures.

LICKING:

Your pet will go home with an Elizabethan collar except for male cat neuters'. The purpose is to prevent your pet from licking and chewing at the incision. It is very important that the collar remains on at all times for 10-14 days. If you do not use the Elizabethan collar and your pet licks the wound, the stitches will unravel and the wound will become infected. This is a serious problem and MUST be prevented by having your pet wear the collar.

INSTRUCTIONS AFTER A DECLAW:

- For the first 1-2 days, please watch carefully for any bleeding from the paws.
- Please use Yesterdays News cat litter for the next 2 weeks to give the paws time to heal (NO clay or clumping litter!)
- Please check the paws daily for any swelling or discharge. Your cat may be a little tender on its front feet for a few days, but if they will not bear weight on them please call us.

CAST CARE:

- The cast must be kept dry at all times.
- You must check the cast at least once a day.
- Animals with casts may not be outside unattended.
- Animals with casts must not be allowed to exercise freely.
- **PROBLEM SIGNS:**
- You smell a bad odor
- You see a wet spot on the cast
- Your pet uses the casting limb less than before
- Your pet has a decrease in appetite or activity level

If you notice any of these things call us immediately at 718.975.6901

If something happens not during our business hours please call Oceanside Animal Clinic 718.864.3508, NYC Veterinary Specialists 718.522.9400 or VERG north 718.522.9400 for 24 hour emergency care.