



## **POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:**

- All surgery patients **MUST BE KEPT INDOORS 7-10 days** after surgery. Dogs should be restrained on a leash and collar when taken outside for bathroom time and brought back inside when done. This allows close monitoring and will prevent infections, complications, and possible death from exposure to outdoor temperature extremes and excessive activity.
- **Restrict your animal's activity for the next 7 days.** Do not allow running, jumping, or rough housing with other pets. Do not allow furniture hopping. Please assist pets up and down from furniture until incision is totally healed.
- **The sutures for spays/neuters are dissolvable and do not require removal.** Remember it can take 3-4 months for sutures to dissolve, and it is normal to feel them externally as they break up and move around. A small amount of skin glue was applied over the external incision site - to prevent glue breakdown **NO BATHING, GROOMING, POOL/POND TIME, OR GETTING INCISION AREA WET for the next 7 days!** Please do not apply any kind of antibiotic ointment/drops, hydrogen peroxide, etc. to incision area unless specifically prescribed by surgeon.
- **\*MALE CATS** - do not receive sutures and will require shredded newspaper or pine litter (i.e. - Yesterday's News) in your cat's litter box for 7 days after surgery to prevent dust particles from irritating the incisions.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO LICKING OF INCISION SITE SHOULD BE ALLOWED!** We strongly recommend an Elizabethan collar (E-collar) be worn for the next 7-10 days to prevent self-trauma. If your pet has problems reaching their food/water bowl with the collar on, elevate the bowls and they will be able to reach them just fine. \*Remember if you take off the e-collar for any reason and your pet causes any trauma, you will be financially responsible for any treatment(s), anesthesia and/or re-suturing fees. \*Make sure if you have other pets in the house, they are not licking the patient's surgery incision either!!!
- **Food and water after surgery:** Please remember that anesthesia for your pet incurs the same side effects as it does with us. Your pet will be slightly lethargic, have an upset stomach, can be nauseous, and may have delayed digestion for the next 24-48 hours until the body totally expels the anesthesia. If your pet takes in any food/water too quickly, or in too large of an amount, vomiting is likely to occur. To help reduce the risk of vomiting, please refer to the following guidelines:
  - When you get your pet home today, they may have water - we recommend emptying their dish, placing a small line of water just to cover the bottom of their dish and add lots of ice cubes for pet(s) to lick on. This allows them to hydrate but forces them take it in slowly, thus reducing the risk of vomiting.

- Do not feed your pet anything before 6:00 p.m. tonight. Feed your pet only ¼ - ½ the amount of their regular feeding for tonight. They may resume regular feeding/watering tomorrow. If your pet does not seem interested in food or water today, do not be alarmed as this is normal and they should become more interested the day after surgery.
- **PAIN MEDS** – pain medications may be started tonight **ONLY** if your pet is drinking and eating and is able to keep it all down. If your pet shows any signs of nausea (very sleepy, drooling, constant licking of the face/nose) or is not interested in food or water tonight do not start pain meds until tomorrow morning – try to make sure meds are given with food. Follow directions as prescribed on drug label.
- **NEVER GIVE ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL TO DOGS AND CATS FOR PAIN UNLESS SPECIFICALLY PRESCRIBED BY YOUR VETERINARIAN! TYLENOL AND IBUPROFEN ARE TOXIC TO ANIMALS, AND ASPIRIN CAN BE DEADLY IF ADMINISTERED AFTER SURGERY!**
- **Check your pet's incision area at least twice daily until healed!** The site should not become more red, irritated, or inflamed than it is on the day of surgery. A small amount of blood seepage is normal on the day of surgery. If you have any concerns or questions after your pet's surgery, please feel free to contact us.

**\*\*\*EMERGENCIES: If you notice any of the following, please contact the clinic immediately as they would be considered emergencies:**

- If any area of the incision has opened with or without blood present.
  - If you notice abnormal discharge or active bleeding (blood dripping) from the incision site.
  - If your pet begins vomiting, is extremely lethargic, has abnormal breathing, or has pale (white/grey) colored gums.
  - Excessive swelling – check stomach area for excessive swelling and for male patients also check the scrotal sac for excessive swelling.
- **OUR CLINIC DOES NOT KEEP EMERGENCY HOURS!** If any of the above listed happens outside of our normal clinic hours, contact your closest animal emergency clinic! If you do not know where your closest emergency clinic is, please do a search on the internet and/or the yellow pages. You may also check our website for a listing of emergency clinics in the area – [www.KAAWSclinic.com](http://www.KAAWSclinic.com)