

GENERAL SURGERY

Aftercare Instructions



Your pet experienced a general anesthetic procedure today which requires a few post-operative instructions to follow tonight and, possibly, tomorrow.

Depending on your pet's mental state, the following instructions should reduce post operative complications.

- If your pet is alert, allow your pet to drink from its water bowl for only short periods of time unless vomiting occurs. If your pet vomits then withhold water for an additional 12 hours. Allowing your pet to only drink for short periods gives the stomach a chance to start working gradually without being over-distended (which can cause vomiting).
- If your pet's mental state is depressed after discharge, withhold water for 5-6 hours then follow the above instructions after the pet becomes more alert. If the mental state remains depressed from the surgery for over 12 hours, withhold water over night and contact Central Animal Hospital. (C.A.H.) in the morning. If at any time you are unsure about what to do contact C.A.H. at 521-3518. If it is after hours contact Tampa Bay Emergency Services at 531-5752, or the Animal Emergency Clinic at 323-1311.
- Offer food 2-3 hours after water consumption only if the pet has not vomited. Only 1/3 to 1/2 of the normal evening meal should be offered. If your pet does not seem interested in eating, this is not unusual following surgery. If this persists longer than 24 hours then contact C.A.H..

Surgical site care

- If your pet has skin sutures, be aware of some pets' tendency to lick and chew at anything. Call C.A.H. or A.E.C. for special instructions if this occurs. A special collar can be sent home to prevent this.
- Do not wash your pet for at least 5-7 days. If the incision area is red or swollen then call C.A.H. for instructions before bathing.
- If your pet chews out the surgical sutures or staples call C.A.H. or A.E.C. immediately.
- Please make an appointment to have the sutures removed