

# *Three Village Veterinary Hospital*

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## **POST SURGICAL CARE**

Your pet has recently had an anesthetic procedure and may still feel a little **GROGGY** or sore, so go slowly with him or her. Allow him to readjust to his home surroundings.

Sometimes anesthetics make an animal feel **NAUSEOUS**, even a day later. First, try a few licks of water. Then, one hour later feed only lightly-perhaps one-quarter of a usual meal. If an animal eats or drinks too much too fast, he or she may vomit. If a small amount of food is tolerated, you may feed a little more and put down a small amount of water in an hour or so. By evening, you should be able to go back to feeding and watering as usual.

Some pets may develop a slight dry **COUGH** after anesthesia (especially dogs). This results from an irritation of the trachea (windpipe) by the tube inserted in the trachea to allow your pet to breathe the oxygen and anesthetic mixture. Most coughs are gone in a couple of days, and don't affect the animal's activity. If a cough seems excessive or there seems to be breathing difficulty, please call the office.

We recommend keeping animals with **SUTURES** inside the house until the sutures come out. Of course, dogs may be taken out to eliminate, but should be brought right back in. Leash walking for 10 days would be best. Don't allow a pet with sutures to roll around in the dirt, or else the area could become contaminated. Limit exercise; running and jumping could put pressure on the incision and contribute to swelling or pulled sutures.

There may be a slight **SWELLING** under some sutures, especially abdominal incisions. If the swelling seems to increase or redness or oozing appears, please call the office. Call immediately if the incision opens up (a very rare occurrence).

Most pets are good about leaving sutures alone, but some may **LICK, CHEW, OR SCRATCH**, which could cause an incision to open and/or become infected. Sometimes dressing the pet in a “tee” shirt can effectively cover the area. Occasionally, an Elizabethan collar (clown’s collar, “satellite dish”) may be necessary. Plastic collars are available at the hospital or the emergency clinic. If you cannot pick one up right away, call the office and we can advise you of other temporary measures.

Do not **BATHE** your pet or put on a **FLEA COLLAR** for two weeks or until the sutures come out.

If your **MALE** pet was neutered, remember that it takes at least a month for residual semen to dissipate and the sex drive to decrease. If your **FEMALE** pet was spayed while in heat, it could take up to a month for high hormone levels to decrease. During this time she will still be attractive to males, so it is best to keep her close to home and supervised.

Remember to keep all **RECHECK** appointments. It is important for us to know how the healing is progressing. As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to call...689-8877.