



# Post-Surgical Care

## **Pain Medication**

- Give prescribed pain medication as directed even if your pet does not seem uncomfortable. Pets can hide pain well.

## **Anesthesia**

- Confine patients to a quiet, warm environment for 24 hours.
- Offer small amounts of food and water frequently.
- If vomiting occurs, withhold food and water for 2 hours and then try small amounts again.
- Please call if vomiting persists for more than 6 hours or if your pet remains lethargic for more than 12 hours.
- Please call if coughing occurs >24 hours after anesthesia.

## **All Incisions**

- Check daily for redness, swelling, drainage, missing stitches, or open wounds.
- Prevent licking and chewing. Protective collars or Bitter Apple may be needed.
- Restrict activity for 5 days-no running, jumping, or vigorous play. Dogs should be leash walked only.
- No swimming or bathing for 2 weeks.
- Please call if the incision is open or if redness, swelling, or drainage occurs.
- Please return 10-14 days after surgery for suture removal if skin sutures are present.

## **Castration (neuter)**

- Please call if scrotal swelling exceeds the size of the scrotum prior to surgery.

## **Declaw**

- Use a pelleted litter or shredded newspaper for 5 days.
- Please call if toes are bleeding, swollen, or painful.

## **Drains in bite wounds or following growth removal**

- Expect bloody fluid drainage for several days.
- Warm pack the entire area for 10 minutes 3 times a day.
- Move the drain to break any seal between the skin and the drains.
- Prevent licking or chewing.
- Please call if the area is more red, swollen, or painful; or if the drainage becomes foul smelling.
- Return for drain removal 3-5 days after surgery.