



**Procedure: Soft Tissue Surgery (ex: Growth removal, spay, neuter)**

**Medications:**

Dogs will usually be sent home with pain medication and/or antibiotics. At discharge, we will let you know if any medications are being sent home and if so, when the first dose is needed. Cats are given long-acting antibiotics and pain medication while they're here with us so that no oral medications are needed after surgery.

**Post-Operative Care:** Your pet may be a bit groggy for 12-24 hours after surgery. Please monitor pets closely and keep them away from stairs or any other potential dangers in your home during that time period. In order to ensure proper healing, *it is of great importance that you adhere to the following post-operative care instructions:*

**Bandage Instructions:** If your pet has a bandage, it is very important that you monitor this bandage several times each day. ***If it becomes wet, soiled, or slips out of place, seek veterinary attention immediately.*** Keep the bandage clean and dry at all times by placing a plastic bag over it when outside, and prevent all licking and chewing. Complications from soiled, wet, or damaged bandages can be severe, so it is important to keep a close eye on them during your pet's recovery.

**Incisions:** Please monitor your pet's incision(s). Some degree of swelling and bruising is to be expected over the few days following surgery. If either of these becomes excessive, or you note a large amount of discharge or any odor from the incision, please let us know.

**Exercise restriction x 10-14 days:** This means **NO** running, jumping, or rough play. Cats should stay indoors and dogs should be taken on short leash walks only for this time period.

**Discourage licking and chewing at the site:** If your pet shows ANY inclination towards disturbing his/her surgery site, an elizabethan collar should be worn until the incision is healed. If you do not have an e-collar, please let us know. Most pets adjust to wearing the collar within a couple of days, and can eat with it on. They should wear it whenever they are not under direct supervision.

**Keep the area clean and dry:** In most cases, a warm moist washcloth is all that is needed (if anything).

**Sutures:** Your pet will either have skin stitches or dissolvable sutures under their skin. We will let you know at discharge if your pet needs suture removal. In general, if you can see stitches in your pet's skin, then they will need to be removed in **10-14 days** by a technician. There is no charge for this appointment.

**Diet:** Pets who have undergone anesthesia may be a bit queasy for 24 hours or so and therefore may not show a normal appetite in that time. Start by offering a small amount of water, followed by a small amount of food a few hours after discharge.