

## Post Neutering Advice for Dogs

### Discharge Instructions for .....

Your pet has undergone a ..... procedure today under general anaesthetic. Please read through this important information regarding the after care of your pet.

#### **When you get home**

Anaesthesia can affect dogs differently. It is most likely that they will be quieter than normal and may feel a bit disorientated afterwards. This is usually short lived and can last for around 24hours.

The best thing to do is provide your pet with a nice warm and quiet place to relax and sleep. Even though your pet might seem a little out of sorts, they should still be responsive. The nurse will check them over prior to discharge to assess if they are suitable to go home. If you are at all worried about your pet when you get them home please call the surgery immediately on 01743 360 614.

#### **Going to the toilet**

When you get them home they might need some assistance to go to the toilet as they might still be a bit wobbly from the anaesthetic, so we advise accompanying them into the garden to help steady them if needed. If they have a pet shirt on it will need to be undone and rolled up to their front legs so they can go to the toilet. It is very important that the pet shirt is kept clean and dry at all times. Please then remember to do it back up again so they can't get to the wound.

#### **Feeding your pet post surgery**

It is recommended that you feed your pet something bland like chicken and rice, or you can buy special gastrointestinal recovery food from us. They can have their own food, but sometimes the anaesthetic can cause upset tummies. We advise that you feed your pet small amounts of food little and often for the next 24 hours and then slowly switch them back onto their normal food again. Fresh clean drinking water should always be available.

#### **Wound Interference**

Your pet will have been given either a cone/pet shirt or both. You must make sure that your pet wears these at all times to stop your pet from interfering with the wound. Wound interference from your pet could mean that it will set back healing and recovery times and possibly lead to major complications and additional costs.

It is advised that you check your pets wound daily for any signs of infection or excess discharge or swelling around the wound.

We might send your pet home with a small sticky dressing over the wound which will be communicated with you at your discharge appointment. This can be removed at the first post operative check. Your pet will have intradermal (skin) sutures in and these will dissolve.

**Exercise**

It is so important that exercise is restricted, to allow for healing. No walks the evening of the procedure, just take them out into the garden to the toilet.

For 10 days your pet must be kept on short lead walk exercise only. As well as limiting any extended movements at home, such as going up and down stairs, jumping up and off sofas/beds and in and out of cars. The nurse will see your pet back in 2-3 days and again in 10 days to make sure everything is healing well. At the 10 day check, after your pet has been 'signed off' we can best advise you on how to re introduce exercise again.

The discharge nurse will instruct and demonstrate to you the best way to pick up your pet after surgery. The best way to do it is to place one hand under their chest and one under the bottom, 'scooping' them up, as opposed to placing your hand under the belly area where the surgical wound will be.

**How can I keep my pet comfortable**

On the day of the surgery your pet will have received all the pain relief needed via injection. The vet will also prescribe a short course of pain relief for you to give at home. The pain relief prescribed is a non steroidal anti inflammatory and will help with keep your pet comfortable post surgery. If you notice your pet has any vomiting or diarrhoea when on this medication then please stop giving it to your pet and call us for further advice. Please see the table below for medication details and instructions.

Medication Dispensed.....

Type of medication .....

When to start medication .....

Duration and Instructions .....

**Post Operative Check appointments -**

As mentioned we would like to see your pet back in 2-3 days and again in 10 days, this will be a 10/15 minute appointment with the nurse or vet.

1st post op check has been booked for

Appointment date..... Time.....

2nd post op check has been booked for

Appointment date..... Time.....

*If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 01743 360 614*