



# CAYMAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## Post Operative Care

 Most animals will be subdued or sleepy for the first 24 to 48 hours after general anesthesia or sedation and this is normal. It is important to allow them to rest during this period and keep other animals and children away from them.

 Your pet will have a clipped area on their leg where the intravenous catheter was placed and also a clipped area around any incisions and on their back leg or front leg where the blood pressure monitor goes. Some animals can develop irritation where the hair has been removed and may lick excessively. The incision may have staples, sutures, invisible sutures or a dressing covering it. It is important that your pet does not interfere with this incision as they can remove sutures by licking or chewing and they will introduce bacteria from their mouth into the incision making infection likely. An 'elizabethan collar' may be suggested for use to prevent self harm to any sensitive areas or an old t-shirt can also work well to cover the chest and abdomen particularly, there is also the option to rent a 'soft' E collar.

 If your animal has a dressing or bandage, you will be provided with information explaining how to care for this or 'Bandage Care' can be found in our Resources section on the website.

 Exercise is to be restricted during the recovery period. For dogs, leash exercise to use the bathroom only for at least 10 days is recommended. Cats should be kept indoors and a litter tray provided. All pets should be discouraged from jumping, running or swimming during the recovery phase. Please refrain from bathing pets until wounds have been reassessed.



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 Postoperative wound checks will be performed at 5 to 7 days for all routine procedures and more frequently for other operations. These are to check that your pet has recovered fully from the procedure and that the incision has healed properly.

 Your animal may have been offered a small meal in hospital however as some animals develop an upset stomach after an anesthetic, offering a bland diet such as chicken, fish and rice in small frequent meals initially after surgery is recommended until normal eating habits return.

 Any medication that your animal requires will be given to you at discharge. Details of this will be outlined on your discharge sheet, but please ask us if it is not clear what they require.

 If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at **946 8387** during clinic hours or afterwards on **916 7387**.