

# Post-Procedure Home Care Instructions

## After Surgery, Anesthesia, or Dental Procedures

Your pet has received anesthesia today. Even though they may seem alert, the effects of anesthesia can last 12–24 hours (sometimes longer). Careful monitoring at home is very important for a smooth recovery.

### First 24 Hours at Home

- Your pet may be sleepy, wobbly, quiet, or confused, this is normal.
  - Keep your pet indoors, in a quiet, warm, comfortable area.
  - Prevent jumping on furniture, stairs, or playing with other pets.
    - Children should interact calmly and gently.
- Some pets may vocalize, whine, or seem restless as anesthesia wears off, this usually resolves by the next day.

*If your pet is extremely lethargic, non-responsive, or unable to stand, contact us immediately.*

### Feeding & Drinking

- Offer small amounts of water once your pet is fully awake.
- If no vomiting occurs, offer a small meal (about ¼–½ of their normal portion) later in the evening.
  - Resume normal feeding the next day, unless otherwise instructed.
  - Mild nausea or decreased appetite the first night can be normal.

*Contact us if your pet refuses all food beyond 24 hours, or cannot keep water down.*

### Surgical Incision or Treatment Area Care

- Check the incision daily
  - A normal incision may have: Mild redness, Slight swelling, Minimal clear or pink discharge the first 24 hours
- Do **NOT**:
- Allow any licking, chewing, or scratching at the incision, Apply ointments, sprays, or bandages unless directed, Bathe or allow swimming

Your pet **MUST** wear an E-collar or recovery cone at all times until advised otherwise even if they “seem fine.”

Contact us if you notice:

- Excessive swelling, heat, or redness, Thick discharge, pus, or bleeding, A bad odor, Incision opening or sutures missing

### Dental Procedure Aftercare

(If your pet had a dental cleaning or extractions)

- Gums may be sore or slightly bloody for 24–48 hours.
- Feed soft food only if extractions were performed (as directed).
- Do **NOT** allow chewing on toys, bones, or hard treats until approved.
- Avoid brushing teeth unless specifically instructed.

Call us if you notice heavy bleeding, refusal to eat beyond 24 hours, or excessive pawing at the mouth.



### Medications

- Give only medications prescribed for your pet. Follow dosing instructions carefully. Do **NOT** give human medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen, aspirin, etc.).
- If vomiting occurs after medication, stop and call us before giving another dose. Finish all medications unless instructed otherwise.

### Activity Restrictions

- Leash walks only for bathroom breaks. No running, jumping, rough play, or stairs unless cleared. Activity restrictions could last at least between 7–14 days, depending on the procedure.

### Bathroom Habits

- Urination may be delayed for several hours after anesthesia. Bowel movements may be irregular for a day or two. Straining, bloody stool, or inability to urinate is **NOT** normal, call us.

### When to Call Us Immediately

Please contact us if you observe:

- Difficulty breathing or persistent coughing, Continuous vomiting or diarrhea, Pale gums, Extreme lethargy or collapse, Excessive bleeding, Signs of pain not controlled by medication, Anything that concerns you, it's always okay to call!

### Final Notes

Every pet recovers at their own pace. Quiet rest, careful monitoring, and following these instructions will help ensure a smooth recovery.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We're here to help, before and after you go home.

