

**White Mountain Animal Hospital**  
**1939 W. White Mountain Blvd. Lakeside, AZ 85929**  
**(928) 368 – 8425**

**\*\*\*POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR PET \*\*\***

**Your pet has just undergone a surgical procedure. Please call us at 928-368-8425 if you have any questions regarding your pet's condition. These instructions are provided to you as a general guide.**

\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ **must return in \_\_\_\_\_ days for suture/ staple removal.** \*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*\*\*\* FEEDING \*\*\*\*\***

Some pets have an upset digestive system and may vomit a few times after going home, so we recommend withholding all food and water for 12 hours.

- Offer small amounts of water after the first 12 hours following surgery. (ANESTHESIA CAN CAUSE MILD NAUSEA)
- Offer a small amount of food 12-24 hours following surgery. You may gradually increase the amount over the next 1-2 days.
- If your pet vomits more than one time, refuses to eat 24-48 hours after surgery, or has diarrhea, call the office.

**\*\*\*\*\* SUTURES/ STAPLES AND INCISIONS \*\*\*\*\***

- All visible sutures are removed at the hospital 7-10 days following surgery, unless you are instructed otherwise.
- You should check your pet's incision daily. It will be slightly reddened the first 24 hours following surgery. A small amount of clear- red drainage is no unusual during the first 24 hours. Any drainage or crustiness around the incision may be gently cleaned with Hydrogen Peroxide.
- During this time, your pet may be unusually irritable and might snap or bite at family members or other pets. Provide a warm, quiet place with dim lights, away from children and other pets.
- Keep all sutures clean and dry. DO NOT give your pet a bath or allow it to swim during the first 14 days following surgery.
- Pets, by nature, will tend to lick and chew at sutures, wounds, and bandages. DO NOT allow your pet to do this! T-shirts, cardboard collars, rubber buckets, or towels strategically placed will help deter this problem. Also, pets often console each other and lick each others wounds, which can slow or inhibit healing or predispose to infection.
- Call us immediately if you notice any of the following:
  - 1.) Sudden swelling of the incision
  - 2.) Bloody or pus- like discharge from incision
  - 3.) Broken or ruptured sutures

**\*\*\*\*\* MEDICATION \*\*\*\*\***

Due to the surgery, your pet may have some pain and apprehension and should be allowed to rest and recover at it's own rate. This pain is the body's way of limiting activity, therefor, we do not recommend pills or any other medications at this time, unless instructed by your veterinarian.

Cats may have dilated eyes for 24 hours after going home and should be kept our of direct and intense light for that period of time. You may notice ointment in your cat's eyes which we use to reduce irritation while under anesthesia.

**\*\*\*\*\* EXERCISE \*\*\*\*\***

Please limit your pet's exercise until the sutures have been removed. Your veterinarian may give you specific instructions regarding exercise depending on your pet's condition.

Body temperature often drops during and following anesthesia and surgery. Therefor, your pet will often shiver and shake after going home. Avoid loud noises or sudden movement around your pet. Expect that your pet may: Moan or cry from discomfort ; Shiver ; Have dilated pupils; Appear drunk or uncoordinated; Be restless and want to wander or pace and have difficulty getting comfortable.... conversely, some pets will tend to sleep deeply and be difficult to arouse.

Most of these conditions are within the first 12 hours and are considered normal responses to surgery. Please call us if you have any questions concerning the recovery and healing of your pet.

**\*\*\*\*\* THANK YOU \*\*\*\*\***