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HEMOCARE INSTRUCTIONS – Dog Spay

The First Night Postop

Your pet will be groggy and possibly nauseous from the anesthesia and will probably just want to sleep the first night. Some of our more anxious patients will need your continual assurance every hour through the night and may need to have the security of you touching them the entire night. Don't make any big plans that require you to look your best for those first 48 hours postop. If your pet is interested in eating and drinking you can offer free choice water and about ½ of a normal meal. Please keep your pet in a safe area restricted from stairs and furniture or any other safety hazards in your home since they will be unsteady on their feet.

Pain Medications

Did you know that pain will dramatically slow the healing process?

All of our dog spay patients will go home with Metacam (anti-inflammatory) which is included in your spay price and Tramadol (synthetic codeine).

Your pet received an injection of Metacam postoperatively so you will start the oral Metacam about 24 hours after surgery.

Tramadol can start as soon as you get home and is administered every 12 hours. If your dog is painful the first night postoperatively you can give the Tramadol up to every six hours.

The morphine your dog received for surgery will wear off about 6-8 hours postoperatively.

Side effects of Metacam can include vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite. If this occurs please discontinue the Metacam and call us.

Side effects of Tramadol can include excessive sedation, agitation, tremors, anxiety, dizziness, loss of appetite, vomiting, constipation or diarrhea. If you notice any of these side effects please discontinue the tramadol and call us.

Incision Management

The most important thing you can do for incision healing is to prevent your dog from licking. Use an e-collar, inflatable collar, t-shirt or wrap to prevent licking. Your pet's tongue should not touch the incision for at least 7 days. That whole thing about dogs having super clean mouths....don't believe that for one second!

Check the incision twice daily for signs of redness, discharge, pain, swelling and/or odour. If any of these are present please call the clinic.

Typically there are no sutures to be removed.

No bathing for 14 days after surgery.

Incisions can be cleaned if necessary using warm water and cotton balls. Clean only around the incision and never over the actual incision. Rarely will an incision require any cleaning.

Eating & Drinking

Your pet should have resumed normal eating and drinking habits by 24 hours postop. If they haven't please call us.

Exercise

Exercise restriction is for three reasons: to prevent bleeding, to control pain and to enhance healing.

No running, jumping, playing with other dogs, stairs or swimming for 7 -14 days postop depending on your dog's comfort level. Your dog should stay in the house and walk outside on a leash to eliminate and then straight back inside for the first 7 days postop.

The sutures tying off the blood vessels in your pet's abdomen are very secure but too much activity postop can increase the risk of these sutures being dislodged and bleeding to occur.

The sutures closing the abdomen, subcutaneous tissues and skin are also prone to failure with too much activity in our patients postoperatively. The tissues around the sutures will be irritated postoperatively if too much activity is causing continuous tugging and pulling on these tissues. This will lead to a suture reaction which is a large firm, nonpainful reaction around the suture line. This is not an allergy to suture and it is not an infection – it is a tissue reaction to too much movement around the suture line.

Coughing & Throat Irritation Postop

Some dogs will have some throat irritation from the breathing tube during anesthesia. This can be expected for up to 48 hours postop – if it persists longer than that please call the clinic.

When Is It A Post-Operative Emergency?

1. Signs of pain despite having administered the postoperative pain medication. Some individuals need significantly more pain medication to be comfortable. Please call us immediately if your pet is unable to get comfortable at home after surgery.
2. Repeated vomiting and/or diarrhea needs to be addressed immediately to prevent dehydration and pain.
3. Signs of bleeding may include:
 - a. Weakness
 - b. Shortness of breath
 - c. Pale gums
 - d. Loss of consciousness
4. Signs of abdominal wall incision failure
 - a. Open skin or exposed tissue at incision
 - b. Large swelling at incision area which is soft



**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY
PLEASE CALL 780-662-2227
TO GET THE EMERGENCY
CONTACT INFORMATION OR
CALL GUARDIAN VETERINARY
CENTRE AT 780-436-5880**