



Sample Discharge Instructions

Attending DVM: _____

We are sending your pet home on the following medication(s):

Item Description _____ Quantity _____

Directions _____

Please start the medication(s) **TONIGHT/TOMORROW**. Consult the prescription label(s) for detailed instructions. Your pet recently had abdominal surgery. He/she will likely be sore or tired for the next several hours or days. Please continue reading for additional information about the procedure and instructions about caring for your pet once you return home.

ANESTHESIA

Your pet was placed under general anesthesia as part of his/her procedure. Anesthetic drugs can take a number of hours to wear off and may cause some patients, especially older patients, to appear drowsy for 24–48 hours. Please keep your pet warm and dry during this time as the drugs may decrease your pet's body temperature. You may notice a slight cough for up to 48 hours due to tracheal irritation from intubation.

Anesthesia can make your pet vomit if he or she eats or drinks a large volume after surgery. Please feed half of your pet's diet tonight, and resume normal feeding tomorrow morning. It is normal to notice a decrease in activity or appetite for 1 or 2 days as well as lack of a bowel movement for 24–36 hours after surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the hospital.

FLUID THERAPY

Your pet received an IV catheter and IV fluids as part of his/her treatment. You may notice a small bandage on one of your pet's legs when he/she is discharged from our hospital—this is where his/her IV catheter was removed. A shaved area on one of his/her limbs or some mild bruising is normal. You can take the bandage off approximately 20 minutes after your pet gets home.

If your pet continues to lick the area where his/her IV catheter was until it is red and irritated, please contact the hospital. This is not a common occurrence, but it's good to be aware of the possibility, as it can happen.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITY

Please restrict your pet's activity for the next 10–14 days, or as directed by your doctor. "Restricted activity" means no walking off-leash, no running, no jumping (even on and off the couch!), and no play with other pets.

E-COLLAR

The e-collar your pet is wearing will help prevent your pet from bothering the affected area and delaying the healing process. Try to keep the collar as clean and dry as possible. Your pet will be able to eat and drink while wearing the e-collar. Please keep a watchful eye on your pet for the next 2–3 days until he/she gets used to wearing it.

SUTURE CARE

Your pet had sutures placed as part of his/her treatment today. Please do not bathe your pet or allow him/her to lick the incision until it is healed and the sutures have been removed. Don't place any topical medications on the suture line unless told to do so by the veterinarian. Keep a close eye on the suture line—be alert for redness, swelling, and discharge, as these may be signs of an infection. It is rare, but sometimes mild swelling can also be caused by a reaction to the suture material. Call our hospital if you have any concerns.

Your pet's sutures should be ready to come out 14 days after his/her procedure. We ask that you return to the hospital at that point so we can assess the sutures and remove them safely.

Thank you for trusting your pet's care to us! [INSERT NAME HERE] is a sweet dog and a pleasure to treat!