

# Northside Veterinary Clinic



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## Homecare instructions for the post-operative/post-anesthesia patient

During your pet's recovery period, it will need special care. Please read the following instructions carefully and call us with any problems or questions.

- Please watch the incision daily for redness, swelling and discharge. The incision should look better every day. If any of the above symptoms occur or if you are concerned about the incision, please call. Your pet can remove stitches in a matter of seconds! Therefore, it is very important not to let your pet lick or scratch their incision. If your pet does start to lick or scratch the incision, wrap the area (using a handkerchief, dish towel, stretchy T-shirt, etc.) and call our office immediately. If your pet has shown a tendency in the past to lick or chew at sores or incisions, please ask us for a protective E-collar. If your pet has been given a collar to prevent licking and scratching, it must be kept on at all times when he/she is not under your direct supervision. Don't worry - the collar should not interfere with your pet's ability to eat, drink, or sleep.
- If your pet has stitches, they should be removed in 12-16 days after the surgery. Please bring your pet in between 12 and 2 Monday through Friday for suture (stitch) removal.
- Your pet may be on pain medicine after surgery (Rimadyl, Deramaxx, etc). The medication should be given as directed; however, if your pet develops diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or dark stools, discontinue the medication and call us immediately.
- It may be several days after surgery before your pet has a bowel movement. The combination of anesthesia and not eating before the procedure often alters their "regularity." If there are no bowel movements within five days after surgery, please contact us.
- Your pet's exercise after anesthesia should be restricted. Increased activity may delay healing and increase the likelihood of complications. Remember that your pet will be recovering from the procedure for 7 to 14 days.
- The effects of sedatives and tranquilizers may last from a few hours to a few days, depending on the pet's age, weight and metabolism. If your pet seems sleepy or disoriented, protect it from falling off furniture or down stairs, etc. Be sure your pet is in a quiet place away from the activities of the household, and keep young children away until your pet has returned to normal behavior.