



Post Operative Wound Care Instructions

1. **First 24 hours:**
 - Monitor incision for discharge. There should be no bleeding or drainage.
 - Decrease activity especially jumping and climbing.
 - Your pet will probably be groggy. Confinement to a small area, (i.e., bathroom or laundry room), is best until fully recovered.
 - You may notice a bald spot on the neck or leg of your pet. Hair may have been clipped so the doctor could visualize the vein for blood draws and administration of anesthesia.
2. **Bleeding:**
 - Problems with bleeding are rarely seen.
 - If significant bleeding is noted direct pressure should be applied for 20 minutes. **If this does not stop bleeding call 410-956-4500 to consult with the doctor on call.**
3. **Swelling:**
 - Initially, swelling will occur in all wounds. Swelling is your pet's body reaction to the injury caused by surgery. **If the swelling persists for more than 48 hours please call the hospital.**
 - If swelling and irritation are due to licking we can provide an ointment or solution to prevent licking.
 - Occasionally, a lump will form under the incision usually lasting 3-5 days after the surgery. If the incision is dry and healing, you can ignore the lump. It will recede in 10-14 days.
4. **Pain:**
 - Your pet is usually given an injection for pain the day of surgery.
 - A pamphlet is provided regarding pain management. Please read and call our hospital if you have questions regarding pain management.
 - **If pain persists for more than 24 hours please call the hospital.**
5. **Infection:**
 - Wound infections occur rarely (less than 1-2% of cases).
 - The surgical site becoming red and inflamed indicates potential signs of an infection. The wound may feel warmer and pus may drain from the incision. Your pet may be painful at the incision site.
 - Your pet may have a fever if the wound is infected.
 - If you suspect an infection please call the hospital.
6. **Hot Compress:**
 - Wet a washcloth with warm water
 - Place washcloth on wound and apply pressure for 10 to 15 minutes.
 - Hot compress the wound twice daily.
 - If your pet has a drain you can clean the discharge off with hydrogen peroxide.