



Discharge Instructions for Abdominal Surgery

Your pet underwent abdominal surgery. Even though animals recover extremely quickly after abdominal surgery compared to us human beings, some lethargy and inappetence is normal after this procedure. If you are uncertain whether your pet's behavior is normal, please contact us. In general, their attitude, behavior, willingness to eat/drink/go for walks should improve on a daily basis. If you notice any deterioration this may be a sign of a complication and may require our attention. Please also feel free to check our website for further information.

<http://www.aspenmeadowvet.com/education.html>

Postoperative Care: Please watch the surgical site for redness, swelling, drainage, enlarging in size, or filling with fluid. If you notice any of these, please contact us or your family veterinarian as soon as possible. If there is abdominal splinting, pain, abnormal behavior, increasing lethargy, or your pet stops eating or drinking, please contact us immediately. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us. If you have questions or problems after hours or on the weekends please call the staff at Animal Emergency and Critical Care at Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists - 303-678-8844.

Your pet should be urinating at least twice daily – if this is not the case, please contact us since the bladder may need to be expressed.

Do not allow your pet to scratch or lick at the incision site. Scratching or licking at the incision can lead to a serious infection or incisional separation. We are sending your pet home with an e-collar. This e-collar should be worn at all times during the next two weeks until the skin staples are removed.

Do not allow your pet to run, jump or play for 2 weeks. We need your pet to be very quiet while the surgical site heals. Slow walks on a leash, up to 15 minutes 3x daily, are OK as long as your pet tolerates it.

Medications: We may have prescribed medications for pain and to prevent an infection. Please follow the instructions below. No other medications, including aspirin or aspirin-like drugs, should be given. Serious complications may occur. Please check daily to be sure that normal eating and drinking is occurring. If you think you need more pain medication, please contact us.

SIDE EFFECTS of these medications are uncommon, but please watch carefully for the following: vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the stool, not eating or drinking, straining to urinate or defecate, constipation, lethargy, inactivity, mental dullness, or nausea. If you observe any of these please contact us and discontinue the medications. Most commonly NSAIDs are used as a postoperative pain medication - please check our website at <http://www.aspenmeadowvet.com/education/nsaids.html> for further important information.

Recheck: Skin staples need to be removed in 10-14 days. Please make an appointment to do so with either us or your family vet. If a sample was submitted for our pathologists to look at we will contact you with the results as soon as they are

available. This analysis usually takes 3-5 days, but please feel free to contact us anytime if you haven't heard from us. The results of the histopathology will determine further treatment recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to take care of your family member. We love what we do and to us, having the opportunity to improve an animal's life is what it is all about. If we can do anything for you or your pet, please do not hesitate to contact us. Also, if you have any ideas or comments on how we can improve our care, please let us know. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

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