



COLD LAKE VETERINARY CLINIC

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General Surgery/Anesthesia & Gastropexy Home Care Instructions

Your pet was placed under general anesthesia today for a general surgery (**spay or neuter**), as well as a major abdominal surgical procedure (**gastropexy**). It is normal for your pet to seem groggy, have a decreased appetite and decreased energy level for the next 12-24 hours from the anesthetic. They may also have some mild vomiting or diarrhea.

Please Call Us if:

- Vomiting or diarrhea persist longer than 24-48 hours
- Profuse vomiting or diarrhea occurs
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours after discharge
- Persistent depression or weakness for more than 24 hours after discharge

A **gastropexy** is a procedure where the stomach has been sutured to the body wall to prevent the stomach from flipping, resulting in a GDV (Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus), in the future. Spays, neuters and gastropexies have specific after care instructions as follows:

- The skin at the surgical site(s) has been closed with sutures that are buried underneath the skin. These are dissolvable sutures and do not normally need to be removed. They will slowly dissolve over the next 30 days.
- Observe the surgical site(s) daily and inspect the skin for any signs of inflammation or infection. If the skin edges appear to be red and swollen, or if there is excessive discharge coming from the wound, please notify your veterinarian.
- Exercise **needs** to be restricted for **6-8 weeks** after surgery to allow the stomach to heal to the body wall on the inside of the abdomen. It is important to reduce activity to prevent tension being applied on the incision. It takes **6-8 weeks** for this incision to be firmly adhered.
- You may offer your pet a small portion of what they usually would get for their supper. They may not be interested in eating due to nausea associated with the sedation they were given today.
 - ❖ It is also **very important** that your pet gets **small, frequent meals** rather than large meals. This helps to reduce the pressure placed on the incision on the stomach. It is also very important to keep your pet **very quiet** after eating a meal since the stomach will move around more with food in it.
- The surgical site(s) may be slightly sore however they should not be overly painful. If you note increased pain, please contact your veterinarian.
- As the suture is self-dissolving, the skin incisions should not be exposed to water. Please do not bathe your pet for the next 14 days unless otherwiselabeled by your veterinarian.
- If medications were dispensed for your pet, please give them according to the label directions.
- Your pet **MUST** wear an e-collar ("cone") as directed by your veterinarian for a minimum of 10 days. Any licking or chewing at the incision slows healing and increases chances of infection. It can even result in opening of the surgical site, which could require a second surgery (at your expense) to repair the damage done by the pet's licking/chewing.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pet.