

Homecare Instructions:

The Post-Operative/Post-Anesthesia/Post-Sedation Patient

During your pet's convalescence your pet will need special care. Please watch your pet carefully to avoid problems.

1. Offer ice cubes initially for about 2 hours and then give water in $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup amounts (depending on your pet's size) until your pet no longer drinks it at all. When thirst is quenched return to the usual free choice water.
2. Offer only a small amount of pet's usual food, about one quarter of the usual amount about 2 hours after returning home, if acting and moving normally. Feed small amounts again two to eight hours later. By the next day you may feed normally.
3. If skin surgery has been performed, do not let your pet lick or scratch incisions. Notice how the surgery site looks when you pick your pet up from the hospital. If your pet does start to lick or scratch, wrap the area (using a handkerchief, dish towel, stretchy T-shirt, sock, etc.) and call us. If your pet has shown any tendency to lick or chew at sores or incisions, please ask us for an E-collar.
4. Restrict exercises to all post anesthesia patients. Increased activity may delay healing and increase the likelihood of complications. Remember, your pet will be convalescing for approximately 7 to 14 days.
5. The effects of sedatives and tranquilizers can last for a few hours to a few days. Variations occur due to age, amount of body fat and metabolism, just as in people. If your pet seems sleepy or disoriented, protect him/her from falling off furniture, 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 is back to normal.

6. If an emergency develops after-hours, call the Texas Animal Medical Center (emergency clinic at 254-753-0901), 4900 Steinbeck Bend Drive, Waco, Texas. Report immediately anything that does not seem normal to you: swelling, tenderness, lethargy, poor appetite, bleeding, etc.

7. In the case of extractions or oral surgery, a slight tinge of blood in the water bowl after drinking water may be expected. If in doubt, give us a call!

Your recheck appointment is: _____

Sutures to be removed: No Yes, if yes, date: _____