

Post-Operative Instructions: Canine Cystotomy

Summary:

Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your dog has had an abdominal exploratory surgery for removal of bladder stones. It is essential to allow your pet time to heal and to avoid injury during recuperation. Please strictly follow the instructions below.

Recovery Instructions:

1. **Observation:**

- It is very common for dogs to urinate frequently and to have blood present in their urine for several days following bladder surgery. Do not be alarmed if you observe either of these signs.
- Sometimes, particularly in male dogs, a blood clot can form with the potential to block the urethra and your dog's ability to urinate. Signs of such obstruction include frequent attempts to urinate which fail to produce urine and straining, even in females. *Your pet's inability to urinate is an emergency* and you should take your dog to a veterinarian immediately!

2. **Activity:**

- *No running, jumping, free access to stairs, or rough playing with other pets or children.*
- Do not allow any unrestricted or off-leash activity, or free access to stairs or slippery floors.
- Activity must be limited to very short leash walks three times daily for the purpose of going outside to the bathroom *only*.
- Restrict activity for the next 2 weeks to allow complete healing of the surgical site.

3. **Incision:**

- Monitor the incision daily for signs of infection such as increased redness, swelling or discharge. If you observe any of these signs or if the surgical site suddenly becomes painful to the touch please call us immediately.
- If your pet licks the incision, he/she must wear an E-collar until the staples are removed as licking can provide a source of infection.
- Keep the incision clean and dry (do not apply anything to the incision). No bathing or swimming for 14 days.

4. **Medications:**

- Give all medications as directed and call us if you believe your pet is having an adverse reaction to any of the prescriptions.

5. **Food:**

- Your pet should have access to water at all times and eat his/her normal diet.
- Continue providing your pet's normal diet until we perform a recheck urinalysis your dog's 4 week post-surgical appointment. If we retrieved bladder stones during surgery, the appointment will include a stone analysis summary and we will make additional dietary recommendations at that time, if needed.

6. **Recovery:**

- Your pet should show steady, continual improvement. If your dog seems lethargic, acutely painful or is simply not doing well, please call us immediately.
- If your pet shows signs of straining or inability to urinate please call as this may constitute an emergency requiring immediate attention.

7. Recheck:

- Please schedule an appointment for suture/staple removal 10-12 days after surgery.
- Please schedule a second appointment 4 weeks after surgery so we can evaluate progress and, if needed, recommend dietary adjustments to help prevent the future development of additional stones.

8. Questions:

- Our foremost interest is your pet's rapid and complete recovery: do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.

We offer this information as a complement to the specific verbal and written instructions that our staff may have discussed with you during consultation or your discharge appointment. It is intended to provide helpful guidelines for caring for your pet at home and is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all possible post-surgical orders or potential complications. As always, we rely on you to call if you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's recovery and post-operative care.