

Post-Operative Instructions: Gastrotomy

Summary:

Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your pet had abdominal surgery. During surgery, an incision was made into the stomach. This procedure is most commonly performed to remove gastric foreign bodies or for gastric biopsy. Your pet recovered well from surgery and is showing no signs of postoperative complications. 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. 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.
- Restrict activity for the next 2 weeks to allow complete healing of the surgical site.
- Activity must be limited to short leash walks three times daily for the purpose of going outside to the bathroom *only*.

2. 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.

3. Medications:

- Give all medications as directed and call us if you believe your pet is having an adverse reaction to any of the prescriptions.
- If your pet loses his/her appetite, begins vomiting or develops diarrhea or dark/tarry stools please call us immediately.

4. Food:

- Your pet should have access to water at all times and eat his/her normal diet. Occasionally a bland diet is recommended postoperatively for several days with gradual return to the normal diet. Please follow the feeding recommendations made for your pet.

5. Recovery:

- Your pet should show steady, continual improvement. If he/she seems lethargic, acutely painful or simply not doing well please call us immediately.
- Please monitor your pet for signs of a post surgical complication such as poor or no appetite, lethargy, depression, vomiting, defecation of black or tarry stool, or unanticipated pain/discomfort. If you notice any of these signs please call us immediately.
- Please note that the frequency of your pet's bowel movements may be decreased for the next 24-48 hours as a consequence of anesthesia and surgery.

6. Recheck:

- Please schedule an appointment for suture/staple removal 10-12 days after surgery

7. 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.