



Post-Operative Instructions- Gastropexy

Summary:

Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your dog has had general anesthesia for prophylactic (preventative) gastropexy. A gastropexy is a procedure for permanently 'fixing' the stomach to the body wall which will prevent volvulus (rotation) in the future. It is important to keep in mind that although volvulus is prevented with the gastropexy, bloat (dilatation) is still possible. Therefore, any episode in which you observe gas distension of the stomach should be considered an emergency and you should have your pet evaluated immediately. 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.

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.
- Do not overfeed as this may cause vomiting or diarrhea. Please report any vomiting immediately.

- Your pet should be fed multiple smaller meals throughout the day rather than one or two large meals. You should continue this feeding schedule for the remainder of your pet's lifetime.

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.

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.