Post Surgical Home Care Instructions

(Please refer to the instructions provided by our staff if your pet has specific instructions.)

1) Monitor the incision daily. Watch for any swelling, gaping or drainage. Please call us if any of these are noted. Any drainage can be cleaned up with a warm damp washcloth or paper towel. A small amount of light pink discharge can be normal. This can be cleaned with 50/50 water and hydrogen peroxide. Hydrogen Peroxide should NEVER be put directly on the incision. This can damage the tissues and slow the healing process.

2) Discourage licking. Dogs and cats can chew through sutures or pull out staples in a matter of minutes. Depending on where the incision is, your pet may need an E-collar (a.k.a cone of shame). If the incision is on the foot/leg, a sock may be more suitable to cover the incision. Socks need to be monitored closely for moisture and proper circulation. High motion areas require a drainage tube and can cause a mess. These pets benefit from wearing a child’s tee-shirt to collect the drainage and the incision.

3) Try to keep your pet as quiet as possible during the recovery period. No running or jumping, and leash walk only. When pets are active or the incision is in a high motion area, a seroma can form. A seroma is a pocket of fluid. Warm compressing the seroma can help it to dissolve.

4) Most routine surgeries will not have diet restrictions. We do not recommend feeding pets a lot of food on the same day they have surgery. If your pet is awake and appears hungry, you can offer a small amount of water and ¼ - ½ of the normal diet. If your pet had exploratory surgery, we recommend feeding small meals frequently throughout the day.

5) Most surgeries go home with external sutures or staples. These need to be removed in 10-14 days. If you pet has a drain in place, this should be checked in 3-5 days. The drain will be removed when there is little to no drainage evident.

6) Give all the medications as directed. Please call us if you have a question on the medications.

7) Please call ASAP if…

a. Your pet is lethargic and does not want to move at all.

b. Your pet is vomiting or refuses to eat.

c. Your pet is not urinating. It is normal for dogs and cats to not have a bowel movement for 24-48

hours after surgery.

d. Your pet’s incision is draining or becomes red and irritated.

e. Your pet’s temperature is above 103 degrees.

f. If you have any concerns. There is no charge to come in and have a Tech look at the incision. If there

is any concerns, a Dr. will evaluate the incision. Better to be safe than sorry.

\*\* The majority of our surgical and medical patients have an intravenous catheter placed in their leg. We usually do not remove the catheter until they are going to be discharged from the hospital. When the catheter is removed, a pressure wrap is placed. This pressure wrap MUST be removed when your pet is at home. \*\*