

## **SURGERY AFTER CARE**

Your pet has had major surgery. Here are some things to remember.

### **AFTER SURGERY:**

- . Your dog needs to stay inside and quiet for the next 5-7 days. Limit your pet's activity and do not allow running, jumping or climbing.
  - . Dogs must be walked on a leash. Do not allow your dog to run free.
  - . Do not bathe your pet for one week after surgery.
  - . Your pet may be uncoordinated, weak and/or nauseated from the anesthesia during the first 24 hours after surgery.
  - . If you use cat clumping litter, switch to a **non-clumping** litter for 5 -7 days.
  - . If your cat is not fully awake by 9 pm, leave it in the carrier overnight.
- Female cats should stay indoors for 5 days, male cats for 2-3 days.

### **THINGS TO WATCH FOR:**

- . Loss of appetite for more than 2 days.
- . Refusal to drink water for more than 1 day.
- . Weakness or lethargy after 24 hours.
- . Vomiting after 24 hours.
- . Diarrhea after the first 3 days.

**IF YOU NOTICE ANY OF THE ABOVE SIGNS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY!  
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK ANY NECESSARY TREATMENT THAT YOUR PET MAY REQUIRE.**

### **THE INCISION SITE:**

- . Watch your pet's incision site for any bleeding, excessive swelling or if the incision opens.
- . Female animals will occasionally develop a firm lump around the incision site. This is normal. If the swelling is soft or pouch-like, the animal will need to see a veterinarian.
- . If your animal licks or chews excessively at the incision site, you should get an **Elizabethan** collar.

### **FEEDING:**

- . For dogs & some cats, wait til about 6 pm to offer some water. If after 15 min. the water is kept down, offer a small amount of food. Your pet may feel some nausea after anesthesia and may not want to eat. This is normal. If your pet does eat and has an upset stomach, he/she may vomit. This is also normal.

Dogs and cats are given a injection for pain at time of surgery. Your dog may be given pain medication to take at home.