



# COLD LAKE VETERINARY CLINIC

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## General Anesthesia/Sedation Home Care Instructions

Your pet was placed under general anesthesia or heavy sedation today. It is normal for your pet to seem groggy, and have a decreased appetite and energy level for the next 12-24 hours. They may also have some mild vomiting or diarrhea.

Please Call Us if:

- Vomiting or diarrhea persists longer than 24-48 hours
- Profuse vomiting or diarrhea occurs
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours after discharge
- Persistent depression or weakness for more than 24 hours after discharge

Food:

- Please offer your pet HALF of their regular supper this evening. They may not be interested in eating and it is common for your pet to not have an appetite after surgery.
- If your animal receives too much food after surgery they may vomit due to nausea, which is present from the anesthetic drugs

Surgical Instructions:

- Your pet has had an injection of an anti-inflammatory pain medication that lasts 24 hours.
- Your pet MUST wear an e-collar (“cone”) as directed by your veterinarian for a minimum of 7 days. Any licking or chewing at the incision slows healing and increases chances of infection. It can even result in opening of the surgical site, which could require a second surgery (at your expense) to repair the damage done by the pet’s licking/chewing.
- Swelling and redness around the surgical site is normal for 5-7 days after the surgery. Any excessive discharge or swelling should be reported to the clinic.
- Please minimize your pet’s activity levels for the next week to assist with healing. You may need to tie up or confine your pet until the incision is healed.
- Your animal should not be bathed at least one week after surgery if we used self dissolving sutures or until after the sutures have been removed (14 days)
- If teeth have been pulled, your pet will require a recheck in 7-10 days. Regular kibble is fine (they chew with their back teeth) but NO tug-of-war games or chew toys until the recheck.

Bandages:

- If your pet has any bandages after surgery they must be kept clean and dry. If they become wet or soiled please contact us to replace them.
- A plastic bag should be used to cover any bandages on limbs when your pet is taken outside
- Chewing at bandages should not be permitted (please leave e-collar in place to prevent this)

Follow up instructions:

- We do offer free phone consultations and one free surgical recheck exam for each surgery. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us or book a free recheck appointment
- If your pet has external stitches these will require removal in 14 days (unless directed otherwise)

**Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pet.**