

## Discharge Instructions

Your pet has undergone a surgical procedure today that required the administration of an anesthetic. We have waited until your pet has stabilized following surgery before allowing her/him to go home. The following instructions are important to your pet's ongoing recovery.

Each animal's recovery time from anesthesia may vary in the length of time that it takes for the anesthesia to completely leave the animal's system.

### Handling and Exercise

- ❖ Please do not allow your animal to jump up if at all possible but do feel that you can steady or lift him carefully, avoiding the incision site. Stairs should be negotiated with assistance and only if necessary.
- ❖ Dogs should be restricted to short leash walking only. This should be continued for at least fourteen days as it reduces the risk of your dog having post-op complications.
- ❖ If unsupervised, please restrict to an area where your pet will not be bothered by other animals and where jumping, playing and running are kept to a minimum.
- ❖ Do not allow swimming or give your pet a bath for the next ten to fourteen days.

### Food and Water

- ❖ Offer small amounts of food and water when you get home. Although you may think your pet will be hungry as he/she was fasted prior to surgery, it is important to re-introduce food and water carefully to avoid the risk of gorging and/or subsequent vomiting.
- ❖ You can put a small amount of water (equal to several ice cubes) in their water bowl. If that stays down, then you can repeat every hour in gradually increasing amounts. Most animals will resume their routine feeding schedule the day following surgery. Please know that your pet's appetite may not be completely back to normal for a day or two.

### Post-Operative Care

- ❖ Check the surgery site daily for unusual or excessive redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Do not allow your pet to lick the surgical site. Rough tongues and teeth can do a lot of damage very quickly. While the majority of pets do not bother the surgical site, the occasional one may. An Elizabethan collar or "After Surgery Wear" may be required if the animal persists and supervision is not possible.
- ❖ Animals under general anesthetic will be intubated (a tube put down the trachea for oxygen and anesthetic). Some animals may cough for a few days after surgery due to mild irritation from this tube. If the coughing persists for more than a couple of days, please call us.

## Pain

- ❖ Your pet may experience some discomfort for a period of 3-4 days. In most cases pain medication will be prescribed as this can aid in comfort, and an easier return to eating and normal activity. Most pets are content to rest - nature's natural healing power. Do NOT give Aspirin, Tylenol, etc. as these pain relievers are poisonous to pets.

- IV Bandage on leg – Remove this bandage when you arrive home.  
DO NOT DELAY removing this bandage. It is normal for some bruising to be present on the leg after you have removed the bandage.
- Bandage on \_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT remove this bandage.  
Have changed on \_\_\_\_\_  
Keep bandage clean and dry. You should contact us if your pet is chewing on the bandage, if the bandage becomes wet, if the bandage slips or has an odor, or if you notice swelling above or below the bandage.
- Drain removal \_\_\_\_\_ Please schedule an appointment in 4-5 days.
- Stitch Removal \_\_\_\_\_ Absorbable sutures were used that will dissolve over time.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Absorbable. Please schedule an appointment in 10-14 days so that we may remove sutures and check the incision. There is no charge for this service, unless sedation is required.
- Prescription Medication - Your pet is going home with a prescription for medication.  
Please note \_\_\_\_\_ is to start today \_\_\_\_\_  
Please note \_\_\_\_\_ is to start tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_

*Should you have any further concerns please do not hesitate to call our office. Should we have closed for the day and you have an immediate concern, then may we suggest that you contact the Metro Animal Emergency Center in Burnside at 902-468-0674. A veterinarian on duty will be able to assist you.*

*This is the only fully staffed emergency hospital in Nova Scotia. As our client, you receive our partner's courtesy discount and your records are sent to us for review the morning following your visit.*

*A member of our pet support staff will give you a call to check on your pet's progress in the next several days. If you wish to contact one of us directly or send a picture if you have a concern regarding the surgical site, you are welcome to email us directly at:  
[petsupport@carnegyanimalhospital.com](mailto:petsupport@carnegyanimalhospital.com).*

*Thank you for giving us the opportunity to look after your pet's well being.*