

Mountain Shadows Animal Hospital
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Exploratory, Laparotomy, or General Gastrointestinal Surgery Discharge Information

Monitoring:

Your pet may be sleepy for the rest of the day. Let them relax somewhere inside, warm, and quiet away from other animals. Offer them food and water, but they may not be interested as the anesthesia will be wearing off in their system; they should want to eat the following day. If your pet does not eat after 24hrs, starts to vomit, or becomes lethargic, please call MSAH at (719) 539-2533 between 8:30AM – 5PM, or if after hours, please see our website for information about emergencies.

It is normal for an incision to ooze a small amount of blood the day of surgery. You can use a water-dampened washcloth or peroxide to gently clean the site, and on later days if the incision gets dirty. Check the incision daily for redness, swelling, discharge, or missing sutures or suture reaction. If it is under a bandage, check that the bandage is not too tight/constricting. Your pet be sent home with an e-collar/cone to prevent them from licking, scratching, or rubbing at the incision.

Exercise:

For 10 -14days after surgery, your pet should not run, jump, or play roughly with other animals. Dogs can be taken outside on a leash to minimize activity. Slowly reintroduce activity over the 10-14day period by increasing walk distances little by little. Do not let your pet swim or be bathed until the sutures are removed.

Medication:

Please give any prescribed medications according to the label's instructions. Please finish antibiotics. Your dog may be on a gastrointestinal-support diet for several days following surgery; please ensure that is the only food they receive until it is all finished.

Follow-up Care:

If your pet has a bandage, please try to keep that bandage on for 10-14 days, or however long instructed by Dr. Ryff. If the bandage gets wet or slides off, please call us because we may need to replace it.

If you pet needs a cone, please leave it on at all times, especially when you are unable to watch them (when at work, sleeping, etc).

Sutures must be removed about 3 weeks after the date of surgery. Call us to schedule a bandage or suture removal if an appointment was not made at time of pick-up, or walk-in.

If you're unsure about how the incision looks, you can email us a picture at mountainshadows@ymail.com or call us at MSAH.

If you have any questions regarding your pet's health, please call us at MSAH