Boulevard Animal Hospital

CANINE POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Pet Owner,

Thank you for trusting Boulevard Animal Hospital with your dog’s surgery. To ensure a smooth recovery and the best possible outcome, please follow these post-operative care instructions carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at [Insert Clinic Phone Number] or visit us at Boulevard Animal Hospital.

1. General Care

- Rest and Recovery: Your dog should rest for the first few days following surgery. Limit activity to short leash walks only, and avoid running, jumping, or playing. Excessive activity can hinder the healing process.

- Confinement: We recommend keeping your dog confined to a small, quiet area of your home (e.g., a crate or small room) to prevent overexertion and allow proper healing.

- Supervision: Monitor your dog closely to ensure they are not licking, chewing, or disturbing their incision site. If you notice any of these behaviors, an Elizabethan collar (E-collar) may be necessary to prevent further irritation.

2. Incision Care

- Incision Site: Check the incision site daily for signs of infection (redness, swelling, discharge, or odor). A small amount of clear or blood-tinged fluid is normal in the first 24-48 hours.

- Keep it Dry: Avoid getting the incision site wet. Do not bathe your dog or allow them to swim until your veterinarian confirms it is safe, typically after the sutures or staples are removed.

- Limit Licking/Chewing: If your dog is licking or chewing at the incision, an E-collar (cone) may be required to protect the area.

3. Medications

- Pain Relief: Administer any prescribed pain medications as directed. This will help keep your dog comfortable and prevent unnecessary pain.

- Antibiotics: If your dog has been prescribed antibiotics, make sure to complete the full course, even if your dog seems to be feeling better. This helps prevent infection.

- Avoid Human Medications: Do not give your dog any over-the-counter medications intended for humans, as these can be harmful.

4. Feeding and Hydration

- Diet: Your dog may have a reduced appetite for the first 24-48 hours after surgery. Offer a small meal of their regular food or a bland diet, such as boiled chicken and rice. Gradually return to their normal food once they are eating regularly.

- Hydration: Make sure your dog has access to fresh water at all times. If they are not drinking, try offering ice cubes or small amounts of water with a syringe or spoon.

5. Activity Restrictions

- Leash Walks Only: For the first 10-14 days, restrict your dog to short leash walks for bathroom breaks only. No running, jumping, or playing until your veterinarian gives you clearance.

- No Strenuous Activity: Avoid activities that may cause strain on your dog’s incision site, such as climbing stairs, running, or rough play.

6. Follow-Up Appointments

- Suture/Staple Removal: If your dog had sutures or staples, you will need to bring them back to Boulevard Animal Hospital for removal. The typical time frame for this is 10-14 days post-surgery.

- Post-Op Checkup: If your veterinarian has scheduled a follow-up visit to check your dog’s recovery progress, please ensure that you keep the appointment.

7. When to Contact Us

Please contact us immediately if your dog shows any of the following signs:

- Severe or increasing pain (whining, trembling, or reluctance to move)

- Excessive swelling, redness, or discharge from the incision

- Vomiting, diarrhea, or refusal to eat/drink for more than 24 hours

- Lethargy or inability to stand or walk

- Difficulty breathing or unusual coughing

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns during your dog's recovery, please don't hesitate to contact us:

- Phone: (562)-633-6514

Address: 2139 E. Artesia Blvd Long Beach, 90805

Website: bahlb.com

Telemedicine - Need to contact us after clinic hours? Our doctors may be available for immediate consults on Hubavet. Download Hubavet on the App Store or Google Play to chat with a doctor immediately.

Thank you for entrusting us with your pet's care. We look forward to seeing your dog back to their healthy self soon!

Sincerely,

Boulevard Animal Hospital Team