

Crepe Myrtle Animal Hospital, PA

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Post-Surgery/Sedation Take Home Instructions

Proper home care after any surgery is extremely important and can positively improve your pet's experience. Here are a few things you can expect and prepare for when your pet returns from a surgical procedure.

- Your pet may be groggy when you get home, experiencing a “hang-over” from the anesthesia. **Your pet will typically require 24-36 hours to recover** from the general anesthesia. Most animals will be back to normal when the anesthesia leaves their system entirely.
- It is not uncommon for your pet to be **more “whiney” or vocal through the night** than what is normal for them. This behavior is due to the medicine they receive in the hospital that causes them to have a woozy feeling, not from pain.
- Your pet may act **constipated for 24-48 hours** following surgery as a common side effect of the anesthesia.
- Your pet may **sleep much more than normal for 18-24 hours** following surgery.
- Isolate the animal from children and other pets.** They may be more prone to snapping or nipping at other pets and other children due to the after-effects of the anesthesia.
- Your pet will not be allowed to eat or drink the night following the surgery.** The medicine they receive can cause nausea and we do not want them to vomit as they can potentially choke. **They may have food, water, and any medicine they need the following morning.**
- If your pet receives IV fluids, they will have to **urinate more frequently for 24 hours** following surgery.
- Your pet will need to be **confined and their activity restricted for at least 10-14 days.**
 - Cats: Provide a **confined space** such as a crate with a small litter pan. Your cat **cannot be allowed to run or jump.**
 - Dogs: Provide a confined space such as a crate, exercise pen, or small room. Your dog should be taken outside **on a leash** for eliminations and **not allowed to run, play, or jump.** Avoid stairs! If necessary, sedatives can be sent home to help ease the stress of confinement.
- Incisions must be checked daily** for swelling, gaps, discharge, and redness.
- The incision must be **kept clean and dry for at least 10-14 days.** Do not bathe your pet during this time. Outdoor pets will need to be kept indoors during their healing time.
- Licking or biting the incision could cause the wound to reopen and become infected.** If you notice your pet doing this, they will need to be fitted with an Elizabethan collar.

These are general instructions for post-op care for most surgeries. When you schedule or pick up your pet, we can discuss and go over specific care instructions for your pet.