Caring For Your Pet After Surgery or Anaesthesia

When you pick up your pet he/she may be unsteady or quieter than usual from having an anaesthetic. It is important that you keep your pet warm and dry, preferably inside, the first night they get home. Water may be offered immediately and a small amount of food once you arrive home. If your pet eats well and does not appear unwell a normal meal can be fed. Your pet may have a reduced appetite in the first 24 hours but if they are not eating normally by the following night please phone us for further advice.

Your pet may have a surgical wound/s that need to be checked daily for signs of redness, swelling and discharge. Staff will advise you of any specific wound care you may need to provide.

It is important to keep your pet quiet and safe for at least 5 days post-surgery to reduce wound infection, tearing stitches or further damage. This may mean keeping your cat indoors, on-lead exercise only for dogs and supervising pets’ interaction with each other.

Routine desexing surgeries usually DO NOT have external stitches. If external stitches are present staff will advise when to return to have them removed – usually 14 days.

Date for stitch removal:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If your pet is trying to bite or lick excessively at their stitches an Elizabethan (bucket) collar is advised to prevent damage or infection.

Signs to look out for include prolonged lethargy, vomiting, reduced appetite, excessive swelling, redness or irritation of the surgery site and signs of pain or distress. Please call the clinic on 9726 9616 if you are concerned about your pet’s recovery at any stage.