



NORTHPARK Animal Hospital

SURGICAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Your dog is recovering from major surgery, which requires continued nursing care at home to ensure a successful outcome. Your job during the recovery period at home is just as important as the surgical procedure just completed.

Home care mainly involves **restriction of activity** because your dog does not understand the significance of the recovery period. Most dogs become very active in a short period of time, and confinement indoors by you is of the utmost importance! This entails:

No jumping or running

No stair climbing

No playing with other pets

No "rough-housing"

When your dog goes outside to eliminate, it must be on a short leash and returned indoors **immediately**. If your dog must be left alone, it should be confined to a cage or other **small** area. This strict confinement and restriction of activity is necessary during the entire convalescent period. Excessive activity often leads to injury or serious complications. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort for your dog.

Observe the incision daily for signs of redness, swelling, discharge or excessive licking. The incision should look better each day. Please do not hesitate to call if you observe any abnormalities.

We have various sizes of protective collars to keep your dog from licking the incision. Licking usually leads to chewing and removal of sutures, which can occur in a matter of minutes. Call us as soon as possible if this occurs because this can result in an infection that is difficult to treat and may require hospitalization.

In general, your dog should gradually improve each day. If your dog's condition changes or suddenly worsens, please call us as soon as possible. Our goal is to help your dog return to a normal and pain free life. Please call if you have any concerns.