

## Pre-Operation Instructions for Pet Owners

For your peace of mind, and for your pet's safety, please follow these simple instructions:

### **The day before surgery:**

Feed your dog half of their normal ration the evening before surgery (prior to 10:00 pm).

Cats may be fed as normal.

Nothing to eat after dinner; water is ok. For dogs, take all bones, pig's ears or other chewable items away. For cats, take the food bowl away, even if your cat has left some dinner in the bowl.

NO breakfast the morning of surgery. It is very important to follow the fasting rules. If your pet eats within 12 hours of the surgery they may vomit while under anaesthesia, which is extremely dangerous.

*Fasting exception:* -The veterinarian may make an exception to fasting rules for very young or very small pets – please ask if you think your pet may fit this description

### **Surgery Day**

Your dog must arrive on a lead. Walk your dog prior to coming to the surgery so it may empty its bowels and bladder.

Your cat should be put into the cat carrying cage and left to rest quietly in your house for an hour or two before you bring it down to the clinic. This is so your cat is calm when transported (by carrying or in the car) and arrives in a calm state.

Remember: No breakfast on the morning of the surgery unless specifically directed otherwise by the vet.

## **Post-Operative Information for Clients**

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### **What should I do when my pet arrives home after its operation?**

On arriving home you should keep your pet warm and comfortable by providing a soft, clean bed, ideally in a quiet and draught free room. Unless otherwise instructed, your pet should be offered a drink of fresh water. After a few hours a small amount of food may be given. Please keep your pet indoors overnight, or longer if instructed, and allow the use of a litter tray if applicable. You should discourage any jumping or activity that will cause excessive stretching of the wound, especially during the first week post-operatively.

### **My pet seems very sleepy. Is this normal?**

Your pet has been given a sedative and/or a general anaesthetic. These drugs can take a number of hours to wear off and may cause some patients to appear drowsy for the rest of the day. Over the next day their behaviour should return to normal, however if you are at all concerned do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Why has my pet's foreleg been clipped?**

This is where the anaesthetic and the intravenous fluids were given. There may also be a small dressing on the leg; if so this can be removed in the evening unless otherwise instructed.

### **My pet has developed a slight cough since the operation. Is this anything to worry about?**

During the anaesthetic, pets often have a tube placed in their trachea (windpipe). This can occasionally cause mild irritation or a slight cough as an after-effect. If so, it will settle down over the next 24 hours. However, should it persist, please contact us.

### **What should I do if my pet is licking the wound or chewing the stitches?**

It is natural that your pet may try to clean the operation site. However excessive licking or chewing at the stitches is not good. If you have been given an Elizabethan collar to prevent chewing, then ensure it is used. Please contact us if you don't have an Elizabethan collar but think you need one. If your pet does succeed in removing any of its stitches then please call us or return so we can check the wound.

## Post-Operative Information for Clients

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### **What should the wound look like, and when should I be concerned?**

The wound should normally be clean with the edges together and the skin a normal or slightly reddish/pink colour. In pale-skinned pets bruising may be seen around the wound. The wound should not be swollen, red or sore to touch. There should not be any blood or liquid seeping from the wound

Please contact us if you are worried, or if you see any of the following at the wound:

- Continuous seepage or a large quantity of blood
- Intermittent blood seepage continuing for more than 24 hours
- Any swelling, excessive redness of the skin, discharge or pain

### **When do the stitches need removing?**

In general the skin stitches (also called sutures) are removed about 10 days after the operation. This is also an opportunity for the vet to check that the wound has healed properly.

### **When can my pet resume a normal active life?**

Please keep your pet quiet and confined until the sutures have been removed.

### **What do I do with any medication I have been given?**

Please **read the label carefully** and ensure that all medication is administered as instructed. If you are experiencing any difficulties in dosing your pet please contact us for advice.

### **Finally**

We are here to help. If you have any questions or worries at all, don't hesitate to call us at the hospital on 8097 0060.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet's healthcare.