

Washington Crossing Animal Hospital

Pre-op Instructions / What to Expect

Before Anesthesia/Sedation

Please eliminate access to all food sources and stop feeding your pet by midnight the night before the procedure.

Please drop your pet off at 8:45 am, the day of their procedure.

Your pet may have water in the morning, please don't allow them to drink excessively. If your pet will be staying overnight, please provide their regular food and any toy/blanket that you think will make them more comfortable.

Picking up your pet:

When picking up your pet, proper restraint is required while leaving the hospital (leash or carrier).

Your pet will continue to experience the effects of anesthesia after you pick them up on the day of their procedure and may experience some instability as a result. Exercise caution with them until the following morning.

Re-introducing food and water:

With the excitement of returning home, your pet may want to eat or drink excessively, which can result in vomiting. Wait 1 hour after returning home to offer a small amount of water. If the water is kept down, offer a small meal for dinner; if all goes well you may provide the rest of a normal meal. If there is any vomiting, withhold food and water until the following morning, then resume your normal feeding routine.

For Pets having Surgery

Physical limitations:

Most pets will return to normal activity levels a short time after surgery. Confinement and close supervision indoors are of the utmost importance for animals with skin incisions! This means:

- No jumping or running
- No stair climbing
- No playing with other pets
- No "rough-housing"

When taking your dog outside to relieve himself, a leash should be used. Return indoors as soon as your pet has relieved himself.

Do not let your dog run free in a fenced area. Leash walks for the next 10-12 days will provide adequate and safe exercise while incisions are allowed to heal.

Incision Care:

Monitor the incision daily for signs of redness, swelling, discharge or licking. Mild redness and swelling are part of the healing process and should be expected for the first few days after surgery.

After the first 2-3 days, swelling and redness should subside, and the incision should look better each day. Whenever possible, we use sutures that do not have to be removed. If this is not possible, sutures are typically removed 10 - 14 days after surgery.

If your pet licks or chews at the incision, they will need to wear an E-Collar for 10 days post-operatively, or until the sutures are removed. **E-collars can be purchased at most large pet stores, we also carry them here for your convenience.**

For Pets having Dental Cleaning and Extractions

Feeding:

In the event your pet has extractions they will need to be fed soft food and treats for 7 days. Canned food or kibble softened in water work well.

If no extractions are performed, they can return to their regular diet after they have settled in at home. Please see the "Returning Home" section above.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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