



HOCKING HILLS ANIMAL CLINIC

PATIENT: _____



POST-ANESTHESIA / POST-SURGERY HOME-CARE INSTRUCTIONS

DIET: Anesthesia causes nausea. Allow your pet to eat small meals as soon as he or she regains an appetite.

SAFETY: Grogginess can persist for a day or more. Keep your pet away from all stairs, lofts, decks, and other high places. Assist your pet in and out of your vehicle if necessary.

ACTIVITY: In cases where an incision was made, you will need to restrict activity to prevent the incision from opening up. Restrict to leash walks while outdoors. Do not allow running or jumping for at least 10 days. Your pet may have: **Normal activity** **Restricted activity as discussed above** **Strict Cage Rest**

BATHING: If an incision was made, bathe only after sutures/staples are removed (not before 10 days post-op)

INCISION: Inspect incision(s) daily. If you see drainage, swelling, bleeding, or excessive redness, call for an appointment right away.

SUTURE or STAPLE REMOVAL:

Your pet **DOES** **have sutures/staples to be removed.** Please schedule a suture/staple removal appointment for 10 days post- surgery.

Your pet **does NOT** **have sutures/staples to be removed.**

ELIZABETHAN COLLAR or ZEN COLLAR: Your pet may try to lick, chew, or scratch incisions whether skin sutures/staples are present or not. It's essential this activity be stopped. Otherwise, the incision can open up and result in an emergency. An "E-collar," Zen Collar, or other protective device may be needed to prevent trauma to incisions. Please let us know if you need one.

LATEX DRAIN: In some cases, a latex drain has been placed. It's normal to have some blood-tinged fluid around the drain. However, if there are signs of bleeding or infection, bring your pet for an exam right away.

Schedule drain removal if box is checked: Schedule 3–5 days post-surgery unless otherwise instructed.

MEDICATION: Give prescribed medications until gone, even if no signs of pain or infection are evident.

Pain medications have been prescribed **Start the pain medications:** _____

Antibiotics have been prescribed **Start the antibiotic:** _____