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DOG

SURGICAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Feeding:

Your pet can resume a normal diet and water this evening. It's common for pets to be quiet or have a reduced appetite for the first 24-48 hours after surgery, as recovery from surgery and anesthesia varies per pet. If your pet isn't eating, try offering tempting, bland options like cooked chicken and rice or baby food. It's acceptable if they don't eat for 12-18 hours. However, if their appetite doesn't return within 24-48 hours, or if they develop symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, or worsening lethargy, please contact us or your regular veterinarian immediately.

Surgical Site:

- **Examine the incision site twice daily** for any signs of redness, swelling, discharge (oozing), opening, or odor. Should any of these symptoms appear, contact us or your regular veterinarian without delay.
- **Maintain a dry incision.** Avoid bathing or swimming for 14 days. Do not apply anything to the incision unless instructed by a veterinarian.
- To prevent post-surgical infections and complications, **your pet must wear an E-collar for 10-14 days, or until the incision is fully healed and the scabs have fallen off.** Licking or chewing the incision site is the leading cause of these issues, so do not allow your pet to do so.
- After neutering, **male dogs may experience mild to moderate scrotal swelling.** This is typically normal, but can lead to excessive licking of the area. To prevent this, please ensure your dog wears the provided E-collar. Excessive licking can cause infection or severe inflammation, potentially necessitating scrotal removal. To help minimize

swelling, use the E-collar, limit your dog's activity, and apply warm compresses for 15 minutes, three times a day.

- **For male dogs who have had a scrotal neuter**, a small amount of bloody discharge and slight opening of the incision are normal during the first few days post-surgery. We will inform you at pick-up if your dog had this type of incision. To prevent licking or chewing, we recommend an E-collar. Please contact us with any concerns.

Activity:

- Separate male pets from unspayed females for 30 days. Separate female pets from unneutered males for 7 days. Be prepared to keep pets separated for a recovery period.
- **For 10-14 days post-surgery, it's crucial to restrict your pet's activity.** Confine them to a single room to aid recovery. Leash walks should be limited strictly to elimination. Avoid all off-leash activity, running, jumping (including onto and off furniture), and any form of play (whether with you or other pets). Stairs should only be used under controlled leash guidance.

Medications:

- **Administer all medications as directed.** Should your pet exhibit any signs of illness, such as vomiting, diarrhea, or a decreased appetite, discontinue the medications immediately and contact your regular veterinarian.
- **Upon discharge, dogs will receive a five-day supply** of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication. This medication should be administered with food, beginning the morning after surgery, as directed. Discontinue use if any of the aforementioned symptoms appear.