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## CAT

### 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:

- **Monitor the incision site twice daily** for any signs of redness, swelling, discharge, opening, or odor. Should any of these symptoms appear, contact us or your regular veterinarian without delay.
- **Keep the incision dry.** Avoid bathing or swimming for 14 days. Do not apply anything to the incision unless instructed by a veterinarian.
- **Normal appearance for a male cat neuter incision is an open incision.** An E-collar is not always required, but we recommend using one if you observe any licking or chewing at the surgical site.

#### 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.
- **For the initial week of recovery, shredded or pelleted litter is advised.** This choice is important because gravel or sand-based litter can adhere to the incision, particularly in male cats, potentially leading to infection. Purina's Yesterday's News is an example of a suitable litter option.

## **Medications:**

- Your cat has received a long-lasting topical pain relief medication that will be effective for 3-4 days post-surgery. You may notice mild sedation in your cat for the next 3 days as a side effect of this medication. Unless specifically discussed with the attending veterinarian, no additional medications will be dispensed for home use.