



## POST OPERATIVE CARE - GENERAL

Patient .....

Date .....

Your pet has received a sedative or general anaesthetic and is likely to be quiet and subdued for 24–48 hours.

- **Wound care** - If a wound is present, please ensure that your pet does not lick or chew it, as this could cause pain or delay healing. If licking persists, please use the Elizabethan collar provided. If unused, the collar can be returned and refunded at your pet's post-operative check.
- **Feeding** - Your pet may be fed a light meal this evening. A suitable diet is provided by the surgery or you can prepare a homemade meal of chicken or white fish with rice. Occasionally, after an anaesthetic, animals may lose their appetite and/or be sick. If this continues for more than 24 hours or you are concerned, please contact the surgery.
- **Exercise - Dogs** should be kept on a lead when outdoors, until your vet has checked any wound. **Cats** should be kept indoors, with a litter tray, for at least 48 hours or until your vet has checked any wound. Please try to keep your pet calm and try to avoid it jumping onto furniture or running up and down stairs.
- **Clipping** - A small area of fur will have been clipped from one or both forelegs where the anaesthetic was injected. The operation site will also have been clipped. If your pet has had a blood test, fur may have been clipped from under its neck. A small bandage may be applied over one of your pet's fore/hindlimbs. This bandage should be removed at home after a few hours.
- **Coughing** – Your pet may have a dry cough for a few days after surgery. This could be because a tube was put down its throat allowing it to breathe during the anaesthetic. If the cough persists or causes distress, please contact the surgery for advice.
- **What to watch for** - Check any wound daily for signs of swelling, discharge or redness. If concerned, please contact the surgery.
- **IN AN EMERGENCY** - Once home, if worried, please do not hesitate to contact us. We have nurses on duty 24 hours a day at the main hospital premises – Tel: **01903 234866**

Your pet needs to be re-examined in ..... days time. Please make sure you have an appointment. Sutures are due to be removed in .....days.

**ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS (see over the page)**