



## POST OPERATIVE CARE FOR SMALL ANIMALS

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** - Please ensure that your pet does not lick, chew or scratch its wound as this could cause pain or delay healing. If your pet interferes with its wound, please contact the surgery for advice.
- **Feeding** - Food and water should be offered once your pet has returned home. Small quantities of favourite foods should be offered as their appetite may be depressed. Pureed fruit or vegetable baby food is often appreciated, and can be fed by syringe if necessary. Adequate nutrition is essential for recovery. Please contact the surgery if your pet's appetite has not returned to normal within 24 hours.
- **Warmth** - Whilst recovering, it is essential that your pet is kept in a warm, dry, draught free environment. Dramatic extremes of temperature are not advisable but bringing outdoor hutches into a shed or conservatory or covering the cage will ensure that your pet is comfortable.
- **Bedding** - Provide plenty of clean, soft bedding for warmth and comfort. Shredded paper and towels are recommended, as dusty, prickly materials such as straw and wood shavings may irritate the wound.
- **Companions** - If your pet is usually kept with a companion, it may be advisable to separate them for a short period. This will allow you to check whether your pet is eating and drinking and will prevent your pet's companion from interfering with the wound.
- **Clipping** - Fur will have been clipped from the operation site.
- **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)**