

Morris Hospital for Veterinary Services  
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[www.Morrisvet.com](http://www.Morrisvet.com)

So your pet has been booked for surgery. The following information will help answer any questions you may have and help you make an informed decision about options you may have.

Please stop all food by 8pm the night before any anesthetized procedure. You may offer water through the night. Arrive at the clinic between 8-9am and make sure that you provide:

- 1) Clear instructions and permission as to what procedures you want performed. Many times we perform dual procedures to take advantage of anesthesia. We need to know of any elective procedures you would like done at this time.
- 2) A phone number where you can be reached the **ENTIRE** time your patient is within our care. Questions often come up during procedures that we may need additional information or permission to address. Not being able to contact an owner can put your ability to have the procedure that day in jeopardy and may cause us to have to reschedule. Unless you are told otherwise the patient will go home the same day and must be picked up by 5:30pm.
- 3) It is your responsibility to request an estimate before you authorize **ANY** procedure if cost is a concern. You are responsible for any procedure that you authorize so please know the costs involved for what you are authorizing! Estimates are good for 30 days.

You may call to check on your pet as often as you wish, but please understand that medical needs of all scheduled patients that day dictate the surgical order. Your pet may be dropped off early, but their surgery may be done later in the day. We ask that you definitely call after 1pm to see how your pet's procedure went and when they may be available for discharge. Surgery days can be very busy so please be patient if your call cannot be answered immediately.

The following options are elective procedures that can also be performed while your pet is with us. Morris Hospital staff can help you decide which options best suit your pet:

- 1) **Microchip:** This is a small implant that will help your pet to be identified if he/she becomes lost.
- 2) **Young Patient Presurgical Bloodwork:** This helps us to check the health of your pet's internal organs and helps make the anesthetic procedure safer.
- 3) **Sedatives:** It is essential that your pet be kept quiet to allow them to heal. We can send home medication that will keep them quiet.
- 4) **E-Collar/Bite Not:** This will prevent your pet from licking the incision.  
**If Owner allows pet to scratch, chew, or injure incision site all repair costs will be responsibility of the owner!**
- 5) **Hip X-Ray:** These are recommended for dog owners when your dog is under anesthesia so that we can identify arthritis or hip dysplasia early.
- 6) **Young Patient Polishing Teeth:** Polishing a pet's teeth before they can collect tarter helps create a smooth surface which is more resistant to tarter development.

## **HOME AFTERCARE FOR THE RECENTLY ANESTHETIZED PATIENT**

### **OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY FOLLOWING ANESTHESIA:**

1. Keep your pet & incision as dry and clean as possible. (No bathing until sutures are removed)
2. Inspect any surgical site at reasonable intervals (3-4 times daily). Look for signs of oozing, swelling, odor, or drainage.
3. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET UNATTENDED FOR 12 HOURS AFTER THE PROCEDURE.
4. Keep splints, casts, and bandages dry.
5. Allow no free running; allow dogs outside only to potty and only on a leash. Keep cats indoors.
6. Watch for signs of vomiting or distended abdomen.
7. Do not allow your pet to jump up on furniture, or to use stairs for at least 24 hours, or until no longer unsteady on its feet.
8. Provide torn newspaper for your cat's litter if it has been declawed.
9. Please secure a sock/padding to back foot if wound/incision can be scratched open.
10. **\*\*\*Do not allow your pet to lick, chew, scratch, or do damage to the surgical site. If Owner allows pet to scratch or injure incision site all repair costs will be responsibility of the owner! If you have questions please call the office or the afterhours emergency numbers\*\*\*\*\***

### **PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:**

**DIET** No food should be given for the first 2-3 hours after your pet has come home. After this brief period, 1/2 of the regular amount of food may be given. If no vomiting has occurred the regular amount of food can be given the following morning. Do not be alarmed if your pet does not want to eat for a day or two. If normal appetite does not return within a few days, please contact the office.

**WATER** No water is allowed the first hour after your pet has come home. A small amount may be given after this period, or a few ice cubes can be placed in a bowl, allowing the pet to drink the water as it slowly melts. Too much water can cause vomiting.

**EXERCISE** Mild exercise is allowed, but in no case should your pet be allowed to run unrestrained until so ordered by the doctor.

**ELIMINATION** Many patients may not have bowel movements for 1 or 2 days after surgery. Your pet should urinate at least once during the first 24 hours.

**WEAKNESS** Weakness or incoordination from the anesthetic medications may last from a few hours until the next morning. Normal strength should be present within 24 hours. **Older pets may take 36-48 hours to recover from fully from anesthetics used during their hospital stay.**

**SUTURES** If your pet licks the incision - discourage this behavior, since harm may result and call our office. We can dispense a special collar for your pet, to keep them from licking at the incision. --If your pet has sutures, they need to be removed by our staff in 10-14 or 21 days for Mast Cell Tumors.

**NOTIFY THE HOSPITAL OR MICHIGAN VET. SPECIALIST 248-354-6660 or ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTER 248-348-1788.**

### **IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCURS:**

1. If your pet vomits, has diarrhea, or shows any other abnormal signs.
2. Bleeding becomes evident and persists.
3. Your pet chews excessively at his splint, bandage or cast, or at its incision.
4. Stitches are lost or removed from the incision site.

5. Bandages or splints become excessively wet, or toes swell.
6. Other\_\_\_\_\_

In the past in veterinary medicine, and indeed, in human medicine, pain management for "minor pain" was thought to be unnecessary. In the last several years that philosophy has changed with the ability to actually measure the severity of pain, and the stress hormones released during pain episodes. We now know that "pain is not good." Allowing a pet to feel pain serves no purpose. In fact, persistent pain has been shown to actually delay healing.

Therefore, the doctors at Morris Hospital have been administering pain medication routinely after neuters, spays, declaws, major laceration repairs, or after dental extractions. Anesthesia, by itself, does not result in any pain control AFTER the patient is even partially awake, so it is even more important to administer medication for prolonged relief of pain.