



DENTAL SURGERY DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet is recovering from an anesthetic procedure which may have included some dental work aside from a cleaning. This will require continued nursing care at home in order to ensure a successful outcome. Your job in the recovery period at home is just as important as the procedure we just completed.

If teeth were **extracted**, please feed softened kibble or wet food for **5-7 days**.

Feed a light meal tonight and if they do well you can feed their normal intake tomorrow. Give any prescribed medications as directed.

You may see some bloody saliva for up to 72 hours. If it becomes excessive, please call our office.

Due to having an endotracheal tube placed, your pet may cough for the first 24 hours after surgery, if this becomes prolonged please call our office

No chew toys for 1 week and restrict their activity for 2-3 days

What this means is:

- No jumping or running
- No stair climbing
- No playing with other pets
- No "rough-housing"

(Continued)

This care at home is to ensure that any suture that was used does not come undone and that they recover well from anesthesia. Your pet will become very active in a short period of time, and confinement indoors by you is of the utmost importance!

When your dog goes outside to eliminate, it must be on a short leash and returned indoors **immediately**. If your dog is to be left alone, it must be confined to a cage or other **small** area. This strict confinement must be continued during the entire convalescent period. Excessive activity often leads to re-injury or serious complications that result in failure of surgical closure or necessitate corrective surgery. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your dog.

Observe your pet closely after surgery. If they paw at their face, have trouble eating or drinking, please do not hesitate to call. We have various sizes of protective collars available to keep your pet from pawing at their mouth. Pawing or rubbing their mouth can cause complications in a matter of minutes. Call us as soon as possible if this occurs because this can result in an infection that is difficult to treat and may require hospitalization.

In general, your pet should improve gradually each day. If it suddenly worsens please call us as soon as possible. Our goal is to help your dog return to a normal and pain-free life. Please contact our office if there is any straining to urinate or defecate, vomiting or diarrhea, or if still not eating by tomorrow. And please call if you have any concerns.

If issues arise outside of our office hours, please contact the emergency hospital Western Carolina Regional Animal Hospital at 828-697-7767