

## PREVENT INCISION LICKING / CHEWING FOR 10-14 DAYS

- It is very important that your pet is unable to reach their incision site. Licking and chewing of the area introduces bacteria that cause infection and can reopen the pet's incision, which may be a life-threatening emergency.
- If the animal attempts to lick or chew at the incision site, an E-Collar (cone) must be utilized.
- E-collar/Cone must be well fitted to the animal, with the length extending past the animal's nose when the neck is fully outstretched, with the base of the cone resting at the base of the neck. "Donut" style collars do not provide adequate protection and should not be used.
- Visually inspect your pet's incision site daily for the full 7-10 days. Some bruising, swelling, and redness are normal but should be minimal. You may text a photo along with a brief description of your concerns to (573) 554-0473 during our normal business hours. Our vet will review the information, and a member of staff will get back to you before the end of business. If your pet is experiencing a medical emergency, reach out to your full-service vet or your local veterinary emergency hospital.
- Once your pet's incision site is healing well, the e-collar/cone may be removed (7-10 days). The e-collar should be placed on the pet for an additional 4-7 days to protect the freshly healed skin.

## AVOID OVER-ACTIVITY FOR 7-10 DAYS

- Animals should remain inside a climate-controlled area for at least 4 days to keep the surgical site clean and dry through the initial recovery period. Outdoor animals may be kept in a garage, bathroom, or other warm, clean, dry space.
- Whenever possible, keep pets in a kennel or other confined area to reduce activity.
- If other animals or children live in the home, they should be separated for at least 5 days and during all unsupervised time through the full recovery period.
- The incision area must be kept dry: no bathing/swimming is permitted for 7-10 days.
- Dogs should be leashed outside to prevent running/jumping and other over-activity that could injure their healing incision site.

## PAIN MANAGEMENT

- A 24-hour pain medication was administered to your pet during surgery. While most pets will not require additional pain medication, should you be concerned for your pet, a prescription can be filled for continued pain relief upon request. NEVER administer over-the-counter pain medication to your pet, as most over-the-counter human pain medications are toxic and potentially life-threatening to dogs and cats.

## IF YOUR ANIMAL RECEIVED VACCINATIONS

- Mild side effects can be expected after receiving vaccination, including discomfort/local swelling at vaccination site (presenting as a "lump" under the skin), decreased appetite, decreased activity/tiredness, or vomiting or diarrhea. If any symptoms persist longer than 24 hours, contact your full-service veterinarian for advice.

## CONCERNS, RE-CHECKS, & EMERGENCIES

- If your pet does not return to normal within 24 hours, OR you notice bleeding, drainage, significant swelling/redness during our normal business hours (Tuesday - Friday 8-5), you may call the clinic at (573) 397-6443 or text a photo and description of your concerns to (573) 554-0473. If outside of our normal business hours, please see your full-service vet or seek emergency care ASAP
- If your pet does not need emergency care, a FREE re-check at our clinic may be scheduled for the next BUSINESS Day
- Medications and treatments may be necessary and incur additional fees should the complication be a result of a non-compliant injury
- Please call the clinic with questions or concerns

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS - If your pet has a life-threatening emergency after hours, please contact your normal full-service veterinarian or your local emergency veterinary care provider.