

## **General Soft Tissue Discharge Instructions**

- The first few days after surgery, your pet will experience minor discomfort. Please use all medications prescribed to help alleviate the pain and be sure to finish all antibiotics prescribed.
- Keep pet quiet for 2 weeks (no running, jumping, playing). Confine to a small area (such as a bathroom or laundry room) or use a crate when not around to monitor your pet.
  - o Be sure the crate is large enough that your pet can stand easily and turn around and can accommodate food and water.
- Dogs should be <u>leash walked</u> to urinate and defecate, no long walks and no free rein of your yard.
- Cats with abdominal or paw wounds may need shredded paper or yesterday's news in their litter box instead of clay litter.
- Pets should not be bathed until sutures/staples are removed.
- Sutures/Staples can be removed in 10-14 days unless otherwise specified. Please make an appointment for removal; there is no charge for suture/staple removal.
- Please check your pet's incision twice a day. Please notify us right away if you see any changes to the incision such as discharge (white, yellow or green), severe swelling or sutures/staples missing.
- Please use an e-collar if your pet is trying to bite or scratch at their incision. In addition to the e-collar, you can use a T-shirt, socks or booties on their feet (to keep from scratching the incision).
  - An e-collar should always be the first choice to stop destruction of the surgical site.
  - Do not tie socks or T-shirts too tightly to your pet as it may cut off circulation and cause additional damage.
- Do NOT apply a bandage to the surgical site.
- You do NOT need to clean or apply ointment to the surgical site.
- Please notify us if your pet seems depressed, stops eating or drinking, urinating or defecating or is in any way acting abnormally.