



### GENERAL SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep your pet in a warm, dry, quiet place, away from other pets and small children for at least 48 hours.
- Lack of appetite, vomiting, and feeling sluggish is normal after surgery and anesthesia.
  - Do not offer any food or water for at least 2 hours after you get home.
  - At this time, offer a small amount of water. If no vomiting occurs after waiting 30 minutes, offer a very small meal. If your pet should vomit, hold food and water for 6-8 hours.
  - However, if any of these symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, please call for instructions.
- Discourage your pet from running, jumping, and rough play for five days.
- Check your pet's incision daily. A little lump or redness is normal. However, if there is bleeding, discharge, or gaping, please call for instructions.
- Absolutely no swimming, baths, or playing in water or mud is allowed for seven days.
- **Some** dogs will have a cough following surgery. Their throat is irritated from having a tube placed to help them breathe during anesthesia. This is normal and will pass on its own. Over the counter cough suppressants can be given if the cough becomes bothersome. Please call for dosage instructions before giving any medications. Remember, never give a cat any over the counter medication, as they can cause serious health problems, and even death!
- Although most pets are not bothered by their incision, a few want to lick or chew at their incision. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at their incision. If your pet insists on licking or chewing, an Elizabethan (lampshade, cone) Collar is needed. Elizabethan Collars are available here at reasonable prices. Owners are responsible for any charges for additional surgery to repair any damages caused by licking or chewing open their incision following surgery.
- If your dog swells, bruises, or seems painful, applying warm compress to the area will help reduce pain and swelling, and speed healing. You can wet down a washcloth or dishtowel with very warm (almost hot) water, then wring it out, and hold it against the area for ten to fifteen minutes. This should be done two to four times a day, as needed.

### SPAY/NEUTER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

- Because the incision in male cats is left open to drain, the sand in his litter box should be replaced with torn strips of newspaper for four days following surgery to prevent the possibility of infection.
- Hormones in mature male dogs and cats will remain in their system for two to three months following neutering, so behavior changes will be gradual.
- Female dogs spayed while in heat or pregnant may continue to have vaginal discharge for up to two weeks following surgery. This means that if your pet was in heat, she may continue to attract males for two to three weeks following surgery. **Do not allow breeding, as this could tear internal sutures and cause serious internal bleeding and even death.** Owners are responsible for any charges for additional surgery to repair any damages caused by breeding following surgery.

Please DO NOT HESITATE to call North Valley Pet Hospital at (928) 768-8387 if you have any questions.