

## **Post-operative Information: Ear Canal Reconstruction**

Your pet has the ear canal reconstructed to correct a congenital ear malformation preventing normal ear function. This involved reconnecting two sealed ends of the external ear canal and allowing air and sound to reach the ear drum. The ear canal should now function normally.

### **ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS**

- Please keep your pet in a comfortable, safe indoor location with no free access to stairs for the next 3-4 days as he/she recovers from anesthesia and surgery.
- Your pet may be groggy for a few days. He or she may whine or appear more anxious than usual; this may indicate pain/discomfort or side-effects of the medications. Please call your veterinarian for assistance with medication adjustments or return for exam and additional pain medications as needed.
- Avoid any rigorous activity for 2 weeks. Short, leashed walks are fine.
- As the surgical site heals, there may be discomfort and itching resulting in head shaking or pawing at the ears. To avoid any self-trauma to the site, please have your pet wear an E-collar or head “sleeve” (cloth tube over head, ears and neck; depending on the size of your pet, a tube sock with toe cut off or a long-sleeve T-shirt sleeve may work well) until the skin sutures have been removed in 10-14 days.

### **INCISION CARE & MONITORING**

- Please monitor the incision area daily for the following signs; call if noted:
  - Gapping of incision
  - Swelling under and below incision
  - Discharge that results in more than just light crusting on skin and minimal staining of bandage or head sleeve.
- Monitor eyelids for good “blink” function; the nerve that allows normal blinking was in the operative field and may have reduced function after surgery (short or long-term). Please call if you notice reduced or absent blinking on the operated side; we will prescribe lubricating ointments and recommend a monitoring schedule.
- If a bandage has been applied to the head, please monitor for signs of slippage. If the bandage slips dramatically, please return to your veterinarian for adjustment or removal.

### **PROGRESS EXAMS**

- Please return for a progress appointment with your veterinarian in 10-14 days. Your pet's healing and recovery will be assessed, sutures will be removed, and any questions you have may be addressed at that time.