

Post-operative Information: Oral Surgery

ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

- Please keep your pet in a comfortable, safe indoor location for the next 24 hours until he/she is very steady on his/her feet. Do not allow free access to stairs.
- 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.
- Do not allow your pet to have access to toys that he/she will carry in the mouth or chew on for 6 weeks. This may compromise healing.
- Monitor appetite and attitude. *If both do not steadily improve over the next 2-3 days*, please call your primary care veterinarian or return for progress evaluation and problem-solving.
- You can expect your pet to have a bowel movement within 5 days. Some animals take longer than others depending on when they last ate prior to surgery and when they started eating after surgery. It may be abnormal in color and consistency for 2-3 days. If you have any concerns, please speak with your primary care veterinarian.
- Please confirm that your pet has urinated within 24 hours of returning home. If he/she does not, or you notice any problems related to urination, please speak with your primary care veterinarian.

INCISION CARE

- You may not be able to easily see the incision or surgical wound. If you can, please call your veterinarian if you notice:
 - gapping (the edges should be exactly touching)
 - discharge (other than small amount of crusting)Some bruising is normal and will resolve in 5-7 days.
- Please rinse your pet's mouth with antiseptic solution provided by your veterinarian 2-3 times daily for 7 days.
- Your pet's breath will likely be bad for the first week; thereafter it should steadily improve. If you notice his/her breath becoming or remaining foul smelling, please see your primary care veterinarian for evaluation.
- You will probably notice bloody saliva and excessive drooling for the first week. If this continues beyond this period, please see your primary care veterinarian for evaluation.

DIET

- Please feed your pet only soft/canned food for the next 4 weeks. Early in the healing period, you may need to assist by feeding small meatballs one at a time.
- Note that canned food is much higher in calories and fat. Reduce the amount of food you are feeding (compared to typical dry food) by one half to prevent unwanted weight gain.

TESTS PENDING

- If there were any tissues removed for biopsy analysis, they will be submitted and results will be available in 5-7 days. Your veterinarian will contact you with test results and will make any treatment changes as needed.

PROGRESS EXAMS

- Please return to your primary care veterinarian in 10-14 days for a progress exam. Healing will be evaluated, sutures (if necessary) will be removed, and any questions you have will be addressed.