



Before, During, and After -Your Dog's Anesthesia Experience-



-If you have been sent home with a recovery shirt or e-collar for your dog, please have them practice wearing it a few times. Make it fun with rewards and only for short periods. This training will make it easier when your dog has to wear them all the time after the procedure.

-If your dog is having a dental procedure, they may need to eat canned food or dry food soaked in water during the recovery period. Start trying these options now so that their tummy can get used to them before their procedure. We recommend staying with the same brand and protein type.



-If giving medication, give it before the meal. Use pill hiding treats or stir (not crush) it in 1 spoonful of food, then give them their full meal after they ate the medication). This ensures your dog is hungry and more likely to eat the pill rather than to eat their meal around it.

-Feed evening meal after your dog eats the food/treats with medication in it.

-Between 10 pm and midnight give an additional small meal/snack.

-Provide access to water at all times



-NO breakfast meal (unless you have been directed otherwise by the veterinarian)

-Provide access to water at all times.

-Keep the morning calm and give your dog their normal morning walk/potty time.

-2 Hours Prior to Leaving: give prep medications in pill treats or 1 spoonful of favorite food. Stir tablets/contents of capsules in food - do not crush. Give in normal breakfast bowl.

-Bring along a shirt or favorite stuffed toy that smells like home to stay with your dog.

-Bring along your dog's e-collar or recovery shirt if one was given to you.



-Your dog will need a calm, quiet evening snuggling with you. They should not have access to stairs until they are fully alert.

-Your dog is likely to feel tired, a bit nauseated and maybe not quite like themselves. They may be a bit restless or whine as their medications from the day where off and they feel a bit unusual. Keeping calm and sitting quietly with them while playing classical music should help.

-If your dog does not eat, do not try other foods; wait until morning and offer them breakfast.

-Water should be available but your dog may not need to drink the first night home.

-If your dog has medications, you will receive instructions at discharge.

-There are great tips on how to give medication on our YouTube channel.

-If your dog has a bandage on their leg, remove it within 1 hour of returning home. If any blood oozes, apply pressure with a cotton ball or ice cube wrapped in a paper towel. If any dried blood is on the site, gently dab clean with warm water.

-Bruising and itching can be normal at the intravenous catheter site.

-If your dog seems uncomfortable, apply a soft ice pack/frozen veggies wrapped in a thin cloth gently to the incision for 5-10 minutes twice daily for 3 days and call for advice

-If your dog is licking their incision at all, then they should wear a recovery shirt or e-collar all the time for a full week.

-One bout of mild vomiting within 24 hours can occur. If it does, hold back food and treats for 12 hrs. If this happens more than once or there is any blood or gritty brown material present, call.

-Some dogs may urinate more than normal or even drip some urine the first few days. Some do not urinate the first 24 hrs - this is okay if they aren't straining.

-Some dogs will not have a bowel movement for up to 72 hours. Also, it can be normal to have one soft, or even liquid, or even bloody bowel movement.



-Pain management can make your dog drowsy and that is okay. It is better to sleep comfortably than to be awake and painful or to be too active and cause incision damage.

-Dogs are sometimes restless and whine or are vocal the first 12 hrs after anesthesia - this can be normal and should go away within 12 hrs. If it does not please call.

-The best way to know if your dog is in pain is to gently stroke the area around the surgery site. If they do not pull away or cry out then they are comfortable. If they do, please gently place ice on the area and call us.

-Your dog's exercise must be restricted for at least a week after surgery. Leash walk only - no running or jumping. Your discharge instructions may include further restrictions based on the procedure performed.

-Most patients will not have sutures or staples, but if your dog does, removal is in 7-10 days.

-If you feel a scab or glue on the incision, let it fall off on its own so as not to disturb healing.

-Please monitor incisions for swelling, heat, or discharge and call if any is noticed.

-Bruising and itching can be normal. If bruised area gets larger after the first 24 hrs please call and send photos.

-If your dog seems uncomfortable, apply a soft ice pack/frozen veggies wrapped in a thin cloth gently to the incision for 5-10 minutes twice daily for 3 days and call for advice

-If your dog is licking their incision at all, then they should wear a recovery shirt or e-collar all the time for a full week.

-Types of bowel movements to call about: straining to go, no stool for >72 hours, more than one movement with blood or liquid, black tar in color/consistency

-Types of vomit to call about: vomits more than once, blood or brown gritty material

-Do not immerse give your dog a bath for 2 weeks after surgery as the incision must not get wet.

-If you need to clean up an area on your dog please use a damp cloth to gently wipe them clean.

