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General Anesthesia/Sedation Home Care Instructions

If your pet was placed under general anesthesia, or given a strong sedative, it is important to understand that your pet may not be his or her “normal” self for the next 12-24 hours. This means that your pet may appear depressed, lethargic, and/or show no interest in normal activity or diet during this time.

Diet

- Feed small amounts of regular food, unless otherwise directed, for the next 24 hours (your pet may refuse to eat for the first 24 hours after anesthesia – this is normal)
- Offer water in small amounts for the next 24 hours
- Your pet may vomit if too much food or water is given at once, due to nausea from the anesthetic drugs.

Surgical Incisions

- Swelling and reddening is normal, but should not persist for more than 5 days following surgery. Any discharge or drainage from the incision should be reported to the clinic.
- Licking, chewing, and/or scratching at the incision can result in the removal of sutures and cause infection. Your pet should have an e-collar placed at all times. Strict cage rest for 3-5 days.
- Your pet should not be bathed, or go swimming until the sutures are removed.

Bandages

- Bandages must be kept dry. If they are wet, they must be changed within 24 hours.
- A plastic bag may be placed over the bandaged limb to protect it from becoming wet when taking your pet outside during rainy weather. If you do this, the plastic bag must be removed after 30 minutes to prevent moisture buildup.
- Chewing at bandages should be discouraged and an e-collar worn at all times. Strict cage rest is required for a minimum of 3-5 days, unless otherwise stated

Medication

- Give all medication directed. Tablets or capsules can be placed in a small piece of food and offered as a treat.

Call Pou Veterinary Group if you notice any of the following:

- Vomiting, greater than 24 hours after post-treatment (or profuse vomiting, at any time)
- Persistent depression or weakness, greater than 24 hours post-treatment
- Loss of appetite for more than 48 hours
- Profuse diarrhea