

Pioneer Veterinary Clinic

827 Sharon Avenue Moses Lake, WA 98837

509-765-6794

General Surgery / Anesthesia After Care

1. Your pet may not be fully awake when you first pick them up. A nice **quiet** place is best for several hours to recover. It's also important to keep your pet **warm**, as anesthesia can make it difficult for them to maintain their normal body temperature.
2. Anesthesia may make your pet feel thirsty or nauseous. For this reason **do not let them eat or drink excessively** the first evening. Start by offering a small amount of water, wait 20-30 minutes until you know they can hold this down and then you can offer a little more water and a small amount of food (about 1/4 – 1/2 the normal amount). Some pets may not be hungry the night of the procedure and may even vomit; this is normal but should correct itself by morning. If your pet is still vomiting, not eating or drinking, or seems depressed after 24 hours please contact us.
3. Due to shaving and/or suture irritation, your pet **may want to lick** the surgical site. Please **discourage this**, excessive licking can cause the incision to open and potentially become infected. We carry e-collars (cones) and topical relief sprays to help prevent this.
4. If your pet has skin **sutures or staples**, they need to be removed in **10-14 days**. Our staff would be happy to do this at no additional cost. Subcutaneous sutures (under the skin) will dissolve on their own after several weeks.
5. **No swimming or bathing for 10-14 days** after procedures that require sutures or staples.
6. If you notice any **redness, swelling, drainage, or opening** of the surgical site please call us. Occasionally a hard lump will appear at the site of the incision. This is often due to the body's reaction to the suture material and can be normal. However, if the swelling gets noticeably larger or painful, please contact our clinic.
7. If your pet had their first set of **vaccinations** they will require boosters in **3-4 weeks**. Vaccination boosters must be given in this time frame in order for their vaccination to provide full protection.
8. If your pet has a **surgical drain**, it needs to be removed by our staff in **3-5 days**. It is very important to keep the drain site clean and an e-collar must be worn by the pet at all times to prevent them from pulling the drain out.
9. If your pet has a **bandage** it needs to be removed in _____. Take caution when removing bandages at home, or feel free to bring your pet in for our staff to remove the bandage.
10. If your pet has **green vet-wrap** on one of their legs, this is where the IV catheter was placed and the wrap can be removed in 45 minutes to 1 hour after picking up.
11. The **medication(s)** we are sending home with your pet today is/are _____

These can be started the evening of the anesthetic procedure unless otherwise instructed. If you did not receive **pain management** and your pet appears to be in uncomfortable please contact us. If your pet was sent home on **antibiotics** make sure that they finish all of them.

Should you have any questions please feel free to call us Monday-Friday 7am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to Noon.
24 hour emergency service is provided if the need arises.

Thank you