

Wound closure Aftercare Information

Susan Hodge, DVM, DACVS-SA

Surgery Date: _____

Wound Repair: _____

(X) **FOOD AND WATER:** Large intakes of food and water following a hospital visit are common due to excitement. The vomiting this often produces can be eliminated by no food or water for 2 hours.

(+/-) A bland/special diet may be needed for a few days.

() Food and water is recommended in small amounts every ___ hours for ___ days.

A bland diet such as Eukanuba Low Residue or Hill's I/D diet can be purchase or a home-made diet can be made with a 50:50 mixture of a cooked protein source such as hamburger, turkey, chicken, or cottage cheese (all fat removed) combined with a carbohydrate source such as rice, pasta, or mashed potato. We recommend gradually mixing the regular diet into this bland diet during the first week home.

Medications:

(+/-) **Fentanyl patch** (sizes available include 12, 25, 50, 75, & 100 ug patches): This is a clear plastic patch applied to your pet's skin for relief of discomfort or pain control. You will be instructed on when to remove the patch from your pet's skin (usually the date it should be removed will be noted). In most pets, the effects of this patch will work for about 3-5 days total (average of 4 days). It can be disposed of in two ways only, either place the patch in a plastic bag and return it to the office that dispensed it to you for disposal, or fold it in half, and flush it down the toilet. Do not allow pets or people to lick, eat or chew the patch because this may result in intoxication. The effects of the patch take 12-24 hours to either start to work or for the effects of the patch to wear off. Other medications can be used with the patch in place if needed and instructions on adjusting doses should be provided for you.

(+/-) **Anti-inflammatory medications:** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID's) include Rimadyl (Novox, Carprofen), Deramaxx, Metacam, Previcox, and others are available in either Brand name or generic forms: (tablet sizes or liquid concentrations vary depending on the product): The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s), partial tablet, or volume of liquid (in mL) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. These medications reduce inflammation, pain, and swelling. Do not give any other medications (particularly NOT Aspirin or steroids) with this medicine unless instructed by a veterinarian. Stop administering this medication if you notice any vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, or black tarry stool. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will

be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm). Some doctors prefer that this medication is not started until your pet leaves the hospital and is eating more normally.

(X) Pain relieving medications: **Tramadol** 50 mg: The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s) or partial tablet needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 8, or 12 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. This medication is an opioid and may cause sedation, mild constipation, or a decreased appetite. These side effects are related to the dose of the medication. Please call your doctor if you have concerns about any side effects. If a Fentanyl patch has been applied to your pet, this medication may not be needed until the patch has been removed, however it can be started with the Fentanyl patch at half the recommended dose (unless already at ¼ tablet dose) if needed. Please call if you have additional questions or concerns. () The first doses are due about 8-12 hours after removal of the Fentanyl patch OR () The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).

(+/-) **Other: Antibiotics** may be administered if needed, depending on the case. The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s)/capsule(s) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for the appropriate number of days. Antibiotics would be used to prevent infection or treat contamination noted at the time of surgery. Any antibiotic may cause nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Most side effects can be minimized by administering the medication with food. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).

() Other: Sedatives may be needed for help managing your pet. Please see the sedative section for information.

Exercise: Limit activity for the next 3 weeks. No jumping, running, or rough-housing with other pets or people. Your pet should be taken outside on a leash for bathroom purposes. Unrestricted activity may result in breakdown of the incision(s).

(X). Do not leave your pet off the leash or unattended outside during the time of exercise restriction.

Incision: The incision will initially be covered by a bandage. Once this has been removed, please check the incision daily for redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Please call if you notice opening of the incision, drainage from the incision, or swelling. Do not allow your pet to lick or scratch the incision. If this occurs please obtain an Elizabethan collar from us, your regular veterinarian, or a pet supply store. Another option is to place bitter apple solution around the incision or place a t-shirt on your pet depending on the location of the incision and their tolerance of these pieces of clothing.

(X) BANDAGES AND SPLINTS: Areas surrounding bandages should be checked at home twice daily for areas of irritation, swelling, odor, or wetness/dampness and reported if found. Bandages should be kept dry. Please call if the bandage slips, gets wet, or if you have questions or concerns.

(X) Bandage changes will be directed depending on the type of wound/incision being managed.

(X) **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** Monitor the bandage daily. There is material to prevent strike-through (or leakage from the inside). Please kept the bandage dry. A T-shirt or sock (if on a limb) put on over the bandage will help it last longer. The e-collar will be needed to keep your pet from chewing or licking at the wound, but can be removed only if you can constantly supervise them.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for a bandage change & wound re-evaluation in ____ days. Please do not feed your pet on the morning of this drop off appointment in case sedation or surgery can be performed.