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### CARE OF YOUR PET FOLLOWING SURGERY OR HOSPITALIZATION

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Procedure \_\_\_\_\_ Discharge Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Proper Restraint** Please protect your pet when leaving the hospital by using either a leash or carrier. Do not allow your pet to become overly active or excited when you pick him/her up from the hospital.

**Food and water** With the excitement of returning home after surgery, your pet may be inclined to drink and eat excessively which may result in vomiting. To avoid this, we recommend restricting access to water for an hour or so until your pet has quieted down. Then allow only small amounts of food and water for the first eight (8) hours. Normal feeding may resume the next day.

**Diet** Diet can be very important to recovery, please follow these instructions:

- Feed you pet his/her regular diet.
- Feed multiple smaller meals \_\_\_ times a day.
- Feed a special diet: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Eliminations** Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24 to 35 hours after surgery. This is normal.

**Exercise and** Patients recovering from surgery or illness should have limited Activity exercise. Avoid giving your pet access to stairs or other situations that may lead to injury. Due to the effects of anesthesia, he/she may be groggy for 12 hours.

- Your pet may resume normal exercise and activity in \_\_\_\_ days.
- Keep your pet confined indoors and take outside on a leash for eliminations for \_\_ days.
- Keep your pet under strict confinement to a cage or small room for \_\_\_\_ days. Carry outside for eliminations. Don't permit running, jumping, or access to stairs.

**Medications** Please follow directions on any medications carefully

- None dispensed
- Dispensed, directions attached

**Sutures** Discourage your pet from licking or chewing at the sutures. Please check the incision daily for any swelling, redness, or discharge. If sutures appear irritated or infected, notify us

immediately.

- Sutures will be removed by appointment \_\_\_\_ days after surgery.
- Sutures are absorbable and don't need to be removed.

Appointments Please make an appointment for the following:

- Suture removal in \_\_\_\_ days
- Drain removal in \_\_\_\_ days
- Bandage/cast change/check in \_\_\_\_ days
- Recheck in \_\_\_\_ days

Monitoring A decrease in activity or appetite for one or two days may be observed. However, if you pet exhibits any of the following symptoms, please notify the hospital: (1) Loss of appetite for more than two days; (2) refusal to drink water for more than one day; (3) Weakness; (4) Depression; (5) Vomiting; (6) Diarrhea.

Special Instructions