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Pet owners pre-operative check list

BATH: If tolerated: please give your pet a bath 1-2 days prior to surgery. A general pet (or medicated) shampoo is recommended. Pay particular attention to the leg or body part that is having a surgery. In some cases, it may be prudent to have your pet groomed prior to surgery. No bathing is permitted after surgery for at least 2 weeks and no grooming for 6-8 weeks.

MEDICATIONS: STOP anti-inflammatory medications (e.g. Meloxicam, Carprofen) at least 24 hours prior to surgery. Other medications may be given the night prior to surgery, but no medications (unless approved by your veterinarian) on the morning of surgery.

FOOD/WATER: No food should be given on the morning of surgery. Water is permitted in the morning.

CONFINEMENT: Make sure the house is ready for your pet's arrival back home. Set-up a crate, play-pen or confined space in the house on a non-slip surface (e.g. rubber mats or carpet).

An early drop-off in the AM is recommended when your veterinary hospital opens – please check this with your veterinarian.

Post-operative guide

You will receive comprehensive printed discharge instructions from NRVS when your pet is sent home from hospital. These will include recommendations for:

Confinement – crate, play-pen or small room is recommended for 6-8 weeks after orthopaedic procedures with a non-slip surface.

Elizabethan collar – it is very important your pet cannot lick or chew their incision. This can lead to infection and wound complications.

Feeding, medications and wound care – please follow the instructions provided to you by your vet and us



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Recheck examinations – these will be done with your local veterinarian and are dependent upon the surgical procedure performed. In general:

1-2 days – bandage removal

10-14 days – check-up and suture removal

4 weeks progress assessment

6-8 weeks – final check-up and recheck X-rays (often under sedation)

Or at any time you have any concerns about your pet – please do not adopt a ‘wait and see’ approach as this may delay required assessment and intervention.

Return to normal activity

- After your 8-week check-up, it is generally recommended to slowly return your pet to normal activity over 4 weeks.
- Physiotherapy is recommended on a case-by-case basis but in-general not for the first 6-8 weeks.