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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, Previcox) at least 24, ideally 48 hours prior to surgery. Other medications e.g. insulin, thyroid medications, antiseizure medications etc. should be given but the dosage may need to be adjusted. Please discuss this with you vet and NRVS

FOOD/WATER: No food should be given on the morning of surgery. Water is allowed at all times.

CONFINEMENT: Make sure the house is ready for your pet's arrival back home. Set-up a crate or enclosed confined space in the house on a non-slip surface (e.g. rubber mats or carpet). For smaller dogs a crate is ideal; for larger dogs e.g. Labrador/Mastiff a small room with safe environment (no furniture, non slip surface etc) max 2x2 meter may be appropriate

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

Post-operative instructions

You will receive detailed discharge instructions from NRVS when your pet is sent home from hospital. These will include recommendations how to care for your pet when home, including:

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

Elizabethan collar – to prevent your pet from interfering with the surgical site and avoid an increased risk for infection and wound complications.

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

Recheck examinations – these will generally be done with your regular veterinarian and are dependent upon the surgical procedure performed. Generally, we recommend following guidelines:

1st recheck: 1-2 days after surgery for bandage removal and a wound check

2nd recheck: 12-14 days after surgery for a wound check and suture removal

3rd recheck: 4 weeks progress assessment

4th recheck: 6-8 weeks – final check-up and recheck X-rays (often under sedation). Please don't feed your pet that day as he/she may need a sedation to obtain good quality X-rays

*****Please contact your vet or us 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 – please await further instructions by NRVS
- Physiotherapy is usually beneficial to the recovery of your pet and will be recommended on a case-by-case basis. However, please wait for instructions by NRVS as generally it is preferable to wait a minimum of 6-8 weeks