



Post-Operative Soft Tissue Surgery Discharge Instructions

These instructions provide a general overview of the expected post-operative care for soft tissue procedures. **Please follow the specific instructions provided verbally by Dr. Korani or the attending veterinarian if they differ from this general guide.**

1. 🏠 Confinement and Activity Restriction

Rest and restricted movement are crucial for successful healing and to prevent complications.

- **Strict Confinement:** Your pet must be **strictly confined** for **10-14 days** (or as directed by Dr. Korani). This restriction is non-negotiable and means:
 - Crate rest or confinement to a small, secure, non-slip room when unsupervised.
 - **Absolutely no running, jumping, playing, or roughhousing.**
 - Avoid stairs entirely, or **carry your pet** up and down if they cannot be avoided.
- **Leash Walks Only:** When outside, your pet must be on a **short, controlled leash**. Only go outside for brief, controlled bathroom breaks.

2. 🩹 Incision Site Care and Monitoring

Protecting the incision is essential to prevent infection and the incision from opening (dehiscence).

- **Incision Appearance:** Some mild redness, swelling, and bruising around the incision are normal for the first few days.
- **Keep it Dry and Protected:** **Do not allow your pet to lick, chew, or rub the incision.** The **E-collar (cone)** or recovery suit must be worn **at all times** until the incision is healed or external sutures are removed (usually 10–14 days).
- **No Bathing/Swimming:** Keep the incision **clean and dry**. No bathing, swimming, or exposure to excessive moisture for 14 days or until cleared by your primary veterinarian.
- **Suture Removal:** You will be instructed on whether your pet has external sutures or staples that require removal (typically 10–14 days post-op).

3. 🚨 Abnormal Signs to Monitor

Contact **H&M VetSurg** immediately if you observe any of the following critical signs:

- **Excessive redness, swelling, or heat** at the incision site that is worsening.
- **Discharge** that is thick, yellow, green, or foul-smelling.
- **Significant or continuous bleeding** from the incision.
- The incision line **opening up (dehiscence)**.

4. Medication Administration

Administer all medications **exactly as prescribed by Dr. Korani**.

- **Pain Management:** Adhere strictly to the schedule for the prescribed **Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)** and other **pain relievers**. Pain control is vital for proper healing.
 - **NEVER** administer human pain medication (like Tylenol, Advil, or Aleve) as these are highly **toxic** to pets.
- **Antibiotics:** If antibiotics were prescribed, ensure the **entire course is completed**, even if your pet seems better sooner.

5. Feeding and Appetite

- **Initial Feeding:** Offer a **small, light meal** (about 1/4 of their normal amount) 4–6 hours after arriving home.
- **Nausea:** A reduced appetite or mild nausea for the first 12–24 hours is common due to anesthesia.
- **Concern:** If your pet vomits repeatedly or refuses to eat for more than **24–36 hours**, please contact us or your regular veterinarian. Ensure fresh water is always available.

6. Recognizing and Managing Post-Operative Pain

Monitor your pet closely for signs of discomfort. Untreated pain can significantly slow down recovery.

General Signs of Pain:

- **Vocalization:** Whining, whimpering, groaning, or excessive sighing (more than usual).
- **Posture:** A hunched or rigid body posture; trembling or shaking (if not due to cold).
- **Temperament:** Becoming unusually aggressive, withdrawn, or unwilling to interact.
- **Mobility:** Reluctance to move, stand, or walk; restlessness or inability to settle down and sleep comfortably.

Specific Signs of Concern:

- **Guarding:** Snapping, growling, or crying out when the surgical site is touched or approached.
- **Panting:** Rapid, shallow breathing (panting) when the pet is not hot or stressed.
- **Excessive Licking:** Constant or focused licking and chewing at the incision area, which can damage the sutures.

Action: If you observe **moderate to severe** signs of pain that are not controlled by the prescribed medication, **contact H&M VetSurg immediately** for a medication adjustment.

 Contact Information

For questions related to the surgery or post-operative instructions provided by **Dr. Korani**:

- **H&M VetSurg (Hani Korani DVM, DACVS-SA)**
 - **Phone: 415-853-7600**
 - **Email: hmvetsurg@gmail.com**

For emergencies outside of normal hours, please contact your nearest **Veterinary Emergency Clinic**.