

Novey Animal Hospital
Dr. Patricia Novey, DVM
Dr. Angela Coleman-Wiebe, DVM

Date: _____

DECLAW SURGERY: POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Patient _____

Your cat has just had major surgery requiring general anesthesia. When you pick your cat up from the hospital the day after surgery, he/she may still show some effects of the anesthesia, such as grogginess, trembling and unsteady walking. Bandages are applied to the paws immediately following surgery, but usually are removed the following morning if there is little or no bleeding seen. It is very important that you allow your cat to recover in a quiet room at home, and discourage running and jumping as much as possible within the first few days after surgery to avoid bleeding from the paws. Call our office if you notice any swelling or discharge from the paws.

Every pet's recovery process is different, but most cats should be eating, drinking, and having normal bladder and bowel movements by the evening of the day you pick up your pet. We recommend using shredded paper or Yesterday's News litter instead of regular cat litter for the first 5-7 days following your pet's surgery so that the litter does not get embedded in the incisions on the paws. Please call us if your cat refuses to eat or drink, or is still lethargic after 24 hours post surgery.

Please give the prescribed pain medication for 2-3 days following the procedure, and longer if needed. Cats may continue to favor one or both paws for 4-6 weeks after surgery. Expect your cat to experience some behavioral changes as he adjusts to the absence of front claws. Some cats will have occasional sensitivity in these paws throughout their lives.

If you have any questions or concerns during your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call us at 878-8800. If you need advice after hours, call Allied Emergency Hospital at 222-0123.