

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

Date: _____

HOME CARE AFTER ANESTHESIA

Patient: _____

Your pet was sedated with a general anesthesia during his/her treatment today. When your pet goes home, he/she may still be groggy from the anesthesia. Take special care to restrict his/her activity to prevent injuries such as falls on stairs or off of furniture. He/she may need to be confined to a cage or other small area such as a playpen or shower stall until his/her behavior is back to normal. Keep your pet away from other pets and small children, as he/she may be disoriented and afraid. Every pet recovers differently; some prefer to go right to sleep in a quiet, dark room, while others act as though nothing has happened and are alert and active.

If your pet is alert and active you may offer a small meal at home, about 1/3 of what you would normally feed. Do not be alarmed if his/her appetite is not back until tomorrow morning, as the anesthesia can cause some mild nausea. If your pet vomits after eating, do not offer any more food until morning but keep water available. If vomiting persists tomorrow, or if your pet refuses food after 24 hours, please call our office.

Before sedating, we had to shave several spots where we applied an IV catheter and various sensors to monitor heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood pressure while under anesthesia. This monitoring is a safeguard so that we can adjust the anesthesia for each individual pet. Some pets lick or chew at the shaved areas and the skin becomes irritated. Try to discourage this behavior either by distraction with toys or by using T-shirts or socks as a barrier. If this fails and the skin looks inflamed, please call us for other options. The hair will re-grow within a few weeks.

We inserted an endotracheal tube into your pet's throat which was connected to oxygen and an anesthetic gas. Occasionally, coughing or gagging can occur after the tube is removed. This usually resolves in 1 to 3 days without medication, but if it persists, please contact our office.

If you have questions or concerns during your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call our office at 878-8800. If you need advice after hours, call the emergency clinic at 222-0123.

If your pet received sutures today, please schedule an appointment for a technician to check the incision site, and remove any external sutures in 10 days.