

Thank you for bringing your pet to Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. As you know, your pet has just had a mass or masses removed. Surgical removal can be curative for certain tumors, but others may return depending on how aggressive they are. The following are instructions for the optimal recovery of your pet:

Activity: Please keep indoors or closely confined for the next 7-10 days so the incision can stay clean and dry. No jumping, running, or rough play for 10-14 days. Leash walks only are recommended. After 10-14 days, your pet can return to normal activity. Excessive activity often leads to re-injury or serious complications that may necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your pet.

Anesthesia: When your pet is discharged, they may still be groggy from the anesthesia. They may appear depressed, wobbly and may tremble. They should be allowed to recover in a quiet room at home away from other pets. Check on their progress intermittently.

Food/Water: First offer only small amounts of water, and if your seems alert and hungry, offer small amounts of food (~ 1/3 of usual meal). Every pet recovers differently. Some pets may not want anything at all the first night. If your pet vomits, withhold food until the next morning. Call our office immediately if vomiting persists. By the next morning they should be alert and have a normal appetite. They can then be fed her normal volume of food.

Bathing: Do not bathe your pet for 10 days (until the incision is healed). The incision should stay clean and dry.

Monitoring: Check the incision daily for signs of excessive redness, swelling, or discharge. If any of these are noted, please contact us immediately.

Elizabethan Collar: Please keep the E-collar on your pet at all times until the sutures are removed. Licking or chewing at the suture line can cause complications that necessitate re-operation, which leads to added expense. Most animals adjust to eating and drinking just fine with the E-collar. If your pet seems to have trouble eating or drinking with the E-collar on, you may briefly remove the E-collar for these activities.

Suture Removal: Unless otherwise instructed, your pet likely has skin sutures that need to be removed in 10-14 days following surgery. Please call before stopping by to ensure a veterinarian is available. Suture removal is free of charge.

Histopath: If you have requested samples from the tumor to be submitted to the lab, results are usually returned in about a week. We will contact you with the results as soon as we get them.

Pain Medication: If you requested pain medication to be given, the medication should control pain for up to 48 hours following surgery. If medication has been prescribed and dispensed, please give this medication to your pet according to label instructions. If your animal seems excessively painful, please contact us immediately.

Thank you for your continued support of Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's recovery, don't hesitate to contact us.