

## Ear Hematoma Discharge Instructions

Thank you for bringing our pet to Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. Your pet has just had surgery to repair an ear hematoma, which is a pocket of blood inside the ear. Ear hematomas can be caused by a number of things including trauma or anything that causes your pet to shake its ears (ear mites, bacterial, or yeast infections). The following are instructions for the optimal recovery of your pet.

**Surgery:** The ear hematoma has been repaired with an incision through the hematoma to allow drainage. Tacking sutures have been placed throughout the ear to prevent the hematoma from reoccurring. The sutures are absorbable sutures that do not need to be removed. The body will slowly absorb the sutures with time.

**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 they seem 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 ear has healed). The ear should stay clean and dry.

**Bandage:** If possible, please keep the bandage on for another 3 days. The bandage helps apply pressure to the repaired hematoma and also prevents your pet from causing further injury by shaking the ear. If the bandage slips or becomes too tight causing breathing issues, please remove the bandage immediately. When removing the bandage, please keep in mind that the repaired ear has been flipped up over the head so as not to cut the ear while removing the bandage.

**Activity:** Please keep your pet indoors or closely confined for 10-14 days while the ear heals. It is important for the ear to 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.

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

Medications: If your animal has been prescribed medications, please give them by label instructions.

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