

**Post Operative Instructions**

**Dog Castration**

After undergoing surgery today performed under a general anaesthetic it is important you follow these instructions to ensure he feels more comfortable and aids a speedy recovery.

- Having had a full general anaesthetic he will probably feel sleepy overnight. He may appear 'normal' but needs quiet and rest for the remainder of the day. Please do not let him do anything tonight, you can take him outdoors later to go to the toilet but this must be all he does, no walks or play.
- We needed to clip the coat on one or both of the forelimbs for his anaesthetic injections to be administered and also on his abdomen around the surgical site. The fur will regrow in 4-6 weeks fully.
- After his anaesthetic although he may appear hungry, he may be feeling a little sick. Therefore, only give him a small meal later tonight, only half the normal quantity and keep it very bland, eg. some chicken, rice or scrambled egg. No treats or rich food as this may make him vomit. He can go back to his normal diet tomorrow. Water can be given at all times but no milk or other liquids. Don't be worried however if he doesn't want to eat tonight, his appetite should return by tomorrow.
- We have given him antibiotics and painkillers today which will be sufficient and no further medication is required.
- He may or may not have stitches or staples in the skin, if so they will need to be removed in 10 days and we should see him sooner if he removes them himself! If not then all his stitches are internal and will dissolve without any intervention.
- Check his wound daily, there should not be any redness, discharge or swelling, and it should not be painful. If it is, you should bring him back for an examination ASAP. Most wound infections or complications occur from the dog licking or chewing at the wound. If he appears to be doing this then he must wear a buster collar and you should contact us to get one as soon as possible. Dogs can open their wounds in a matter of minutes.
- Do not use any creams/ointments on the wound and no swimming or bathing is allowed for 2 weeks.
- You may notice a slight cough over the next couple of days, do not be alarmed. It is usually a result of irritation caused by the tube he had into his airways during the anaesthetic. If it persists please contact us.
- MOST importantly he will have had a considerable amount of stitching internally and therefore must be strictly rested for the next 10-14 days. He will probably want to run around and do normal things however, he MUST be on the lead at all times and only a 5-10 minute walk once-twice daily outdoors only for toileting. He must not do any running, jumping, climbing stairs or strenuous activity.

Your next appointment should be made in .....days