

THINGS TO WATCH FOR AT HOME

The number one complication from the surgery your pet has undergone is **licking** and **chewing** at the incision site. Normally this does not occur due to the suture pattern we use in the closure, but occasionally the dog needs an Elizabethan collar to prevent the dog from reaching the surgical site.

If your dog begins licking or chewing at the incision site, please see your regular veterinarian to purchase an Elizabethan collar.

We recommend “**leash walking only**” for the next 5-7 days after surgery. This ensures that the pet will not break open the incision while running.

Your pet did receive pain medication after surgery that should last 8-12 hours. If you feel that your pet is still uncomfortable after surgery, please contact your veterinarian about longer term pain management options.

We ask that you please **look** underneath at your pet’s incision at least **ONCE a day** for the next 4 to 5 days after surgery. If signs of chewing (redness, heat, swelling, blood, or anything hanging from the incision site) or any seepage or swelling occur, we want you to contact your veterinarian immediately for follow up care. If you have problems after hours, please contact the emergency veterinary clinic below:

Animal Medical Center
234 River Rock Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
(615) 867-7575
Open 24 hours a day

Normally our patients leave in good spirits and wide awake. They may sleep a lot during the first night at home and their abdomen may be sore for a day or two. By the second day you should not know they had anything done.

By law, if you pet is less than 3 months of age, you must return to your veterinarian to have them vaccinated for rabies virus. They MUST be vaccinated by the time they are 6 months old.