



Cat Adoption Team

14175 SW Galbreath Dr. Sherwood, OR 97140 | 503-925-8903

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS & VISIT SUMMARY

These instructions are applicable for 10 days following surgery

- It is recommended to keep your cat/kitten confined to a small room for 10 days following surgery. Do not allow excessive playing, jumping, or running, which may delay the healing process.
- If your cat/kitten had surgery today, offer small amounts of food and water upon arriving home. Excessive amounts of food and water may cause vomiting. If vomiting occurs, restrict further water and food and try again in 12 hours.
- Do not bathe for 10 days. If needed, use a wet washcloth or baby wipe to clean the cat/kitten while ensuring the incision site remains clean and dry.
- Do not allow your cat/kitten to lick or chew at the incision site. An e-collar is recommended to prevent this. These can be purchased at Cat Adoption Team or many pet stores.
- Monitor the incision site daily for redness, swelling, odor, discharge from the incision site, or deterioration in appearance of the incision site. Monitor daily for vomiting, lethargy, and weakness. Please call the Cat Adoption Team or your veterinarian if you see any of these signs. Weekeday appointments at CAT to address post-surgical complications are available on a limited basis up to 2 weeks after surgery. Clients will be responsible for any fees incurred.
- Monitor your cat/kitten for signs of pain following surgery. These may include lack of grooming, sleeping a lot, decreased interest in food/water, lethargy, weakness, vomiting, growling or hissing when touched, and reduced social interaction. If you feel your cat/kitten is in pain, please contact CAT or your veterinarian.
- There are no sutures to be removed. Females have internal sutures that will dissolve.
- Cats/kittens receive a green tattoo on their belly to indicate their surgical alteration and make sure the cat/kitten is not put through surgery again in the future.
- If your cat/kitten had a hernia repaired or undescended testicle removed (included in surgery notes) they will have one or more additional incisions.

Post-Operative Pain Medication Information

Your pet may have received one to the following pain medications. Check their notes above to determine which medication and read the instructions below.

What do I need to know about post-operative pain medications?

- ✓ Make sure you understand how much of the drug to give, how frequently, and for how long. If you are unsure, ask your veterinarian.
- ✓ Always give the medication with or after food. Your vet may suggest feeding canned rather than dry food to help encourage good fluid intake, as maintaining fluid intake is important.
- ✓ Never give your cat any other medication at the same time without first speaking to your veterinarian.
- ✓ If at any stage you have concerns, or see any potential adverse effects, STOP giving the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ✓ Signs of pain in your cat may include decreased activity, decreased mobility, decreased grooming, loss of appetite, and/or altered personality.

Zorbium

- Zorbium is an opioid pain medication that is applied and absorbed through the skin prior to surgery.
- The pain relief action acts for 4 days after application.
- Possible side effects may include
 - o Some cats may experience sedation or hyperactivity.
 - o This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing reduced appetite, salivation, constipation, and vomiting .
 - o This medication may cause a reduced heart rate and blood pressure.
 - o It may cause localized skin irritation where the product was applied.
 - o If you see any significant behavior, respiratory or cardiac changes or notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian.
- Do not give any additional medications with this drug without consulting with your veterinarian.

Gabapentin

- A pain relief medication called gabapentin may have been prescribed for your cat.
- Gabapentin is often used to treat pain and also give sedation to cats. Sometimes it is also used in combination with other pain medications.
- A common side effect is sleepiness, but sometimes the cat will experience a loss of balance or incoordination.
- The capsules can be opened and mixed with a small amount of food to provide easier administration.

Buprenorphine

- A pain relief medication called buprenorphine may have been prescribed for your cat.
- Buprenorphine is an opiate analgesic often used for short-term pain relief.
- It should be administered by squirting under the tongue or in the cheek pouch for the best effect.
- The doses are very small for this potent drug, so be sure that you are giving the exact amount your veterinarian has prescribed.
- Sedation is the most common side effect, so make sure your cat is confined to a place s/he can't get hurt by jumping on/off objects when you're not around.

Meloxicam

A pain relief medication called meloxicam or Onsior, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (or NSAID), has been prescribed for your cat. These drugs are commonly used in humans and animals to help relieve pain, fever, and inflammation. Controlling your cat's pain is crucial for its welfare. The NSAID's anti-inflammatory properties make it a good choice for post-operative pain. NSAID's should always be given with food. Do not give if the cat isn't eating.

Are NSAIDs safe in cats?

- NSAIDs play a vital role in therapy for many cats, but differences between cats and other animals mean you should only ever use a drug that has been specifically prescribed for your cat by your veterinarian.
- Many human drugs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and acetaminophen can be highly toxic to cats – administering these is life-threatening.
- Adverse effects can be seen with NSAIDs, just as with all drugs.
- Some patients may be at increased risk of adverse effects (e.g. older cats and cats with certain other diseases).

What adverse effects should I look out for?

- Licensed NSAIDs have been shown to be safe for use in cats.
- However, adverse effects can still occur. Most are mild, but some can be serious – as in other species they may involve the gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, cardiovascular system, or liver.
- Adverse effects may lead to a number of signs including:
 - loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting, lethargy and dullness/depression, altered thirst and/or urination, diarrhea and/or black-colored feces, and yellowing of the skin, gums, or whites of the eyes.
- Stop using the drug and contact your veterinarian if these occur.

Safety first: If you are in any doubt, STOP the medication and TALK with your veterinarian
INFORMATION COURTESY OF ISFM, AAEP, AND PLUMB'S VETERINARY DRUG HANDBOOK

Vaccine Reactions

If your cat/kitten was vaccinated today, please read the following information.

- Common reactions that you may see during the next 24 to 48 hours include decreased appetite, lethargy, soreness, lameness, and/or fever.
- These symptoms will usually resolve themselves without medical treatment. However, if any of these symptoms last beyond 48 hours please contact your veterinarian.
- Vomiting, facial swelling, and/or difficulty breathing indicate a serious vaccine reaction. If your cat/kitten experiences these symptoms following a vaccine, please seek immediate medical care.

Vaccine Booster Recommendations

If your cat has been previously vaccinated, please consult your regular veterinarian regarding booster vaccines.

FVRCP Vaccine

- Kittens: every 3-4 weeks until 16-18 weeks of age
- Cats and kittens older than 16 weeks of age: series of two vaccines, 3-4 weeks apart if the cat has never been vaccinated before

FeLV Vaccine

- Series of two vaccines, 3-4 weeks apart

Rabies Vaccine

- See certificate

Flea Treatment and Deworming Recommendations

Selamectin

- Repeat monthly to control and prevent fleas, roundworms, hookworms, and ear mites.