Home Care Instructions
INCISIONS

About incisions
Anytime there is an incision or cut in your pet's skin, his immune system immediately beings working to heal the injury. White blood cells and proteins accumulate at the wound and help it heal by forming clots and a scar. Provided the site does not become infected, it will usually heal within 10-14 days.
Some sutures are either dissolvable or subcutaneous and do not need to be removed. The veterinarian will advise you if a suture removal is necessary.

What to expect during the healing phase
- Minor redness
- Minor swelling
- Minor signs of bruising
- Small scabs
  - **Note:* these should all diminish within a few days**

Steps to take to ensure your pet's wound heals properly
- Do NOT let your pet lick or chew at the incision site.
  - Your pet's mouth contains a lot of bacteria which can easily cause infection.
  - Pets are often able to rip out sutures (requiring us to re-suture the area and then treat potential infections).
- If your pet is licking or chewing at the incision site, please come by and pick up an Elizabethan collar, or 'cone' ASAP.
- If your pet requires a collar to prevent licking, keep it on at all times when the pet is unsupervised! Keep using the collar until sutures have been removed by the veterinarian.
- Restrict your pet's activity to prevent the tearing out the sutures.
- Avoid bathing your pet or allowing your pet to go swimming while the sutures are still in (10-14 days after surgery).
- Make sure the site remains clean.
- Unless directed, please do not put anything on the incision site (lotions or creams).

Call us if…
- Any tissue protruding from the incision site
- Sutures have been torn out or the site does not look completely closed
- There is blood or discharge from the incision site
- There is excessive swelling, redness, or soreness after a few days
- Your pet seems generally unwell a few days after surgery (lethargic, anorexic, etc.)

Please don't forget to call us to book your appointment for suture-removal after 10-14 days!

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