

# Surgery patient & client Preparation Checklist

## Presurgical to post surgical

### Questions for the veterinary technician *before* surgery:

- How many nights will my pet be away from home?
- May I bring a comfort item? A *small* item is ok. Do *not* bring beds or large blankets
- Do I need to bring my pet's food? Only if your pet requires a special diet.
- When will I be contacted regarding my pet's status? After surgery and daily, usually between 9 and 10 am.
- What medications will I need to administer to my pet after surgery?

### Things to prepare for at home *before* surgery

- Teach your pet to be comfortable in a kennel.
- Teach your pet to urinate and defecate while on a leash.
- Get your pet comfortable with you manipulating his/her limb.
- Get your pet accustomed to having a cold pack or warm pack placed on the surgical site.
- Your pet will be fitted with an Elizabethan-collar (aka E-collar, or "cone collar"). If you purchase a donut collar for your pet, you may bring this with your pet at drop-off. An E-collar will still be sent home with your pet.
- Make sure you are comfortable giving oral medications to your pet. You may need to identify something (food, cheese, pill pocket, etc) that you know your pet will eat with a pill in it.

### Day of drop off for surgery

- If dropping off the same day of procedure—remember, no food after midnight. No water after 7:00 am. Arrive at SCVSC by 8:00 AM.
- If dropping off the day before surgery, there are no food restrictions. Drop-off time is between 1 PM and 3 PM.
- If your pet is on any medication, please bring it in the original bottle it was dispensed in, otherwise it *will not be dispensed*.
- Do you have all your paperwork filled out? Anesthesia consent, procedure consent and out of date medication waiver.
- Do you have any questions for the technician or surgeon?
- Confirm your phone number where you can be contacted the day of surgery. *You will need to be available by phone all day* in case the surgeon needs additional information from you or permission for a change in the treatment/surgery plan.

### What to expect while your pet is staying with us

- A technician will phone you every morning and let you know the status of your pet, typically between 9:00 am and 10:00 am. If you have not heard from SCVSC by 10:30 am, you may call for an update. *Typically no news is good news.*
- On the day of the procedure, a technician will let you know where they are in the schedule. After the procedure, a technician will call and let you know how your pet did under anesthesia.
- Dr. Silverman will call later in the day and give you more information about the procedure.
- If we finish surgery after 9:00 pm, Dr. Silverman prefers not to wake anyone. Let the technician know if a late night call is okay.
- Unfortunately at this time, we can not allow visitation. We will attempt to give you a thorough description of how your pet is doing.

#### What to expect at discharge/going home

- We have done the easy part, now it is all up to you!
- A technician will call you in the morning and schedule a time for you to pick up your pet.
- If you will need to speak with Dr Silverman, it may need to be scheduled differently.
- Dr. Silverman is as thorough with his discharges as he is with everything else, please be patient, and have time to fully discharge your pet. Discharges can take between 1-2 hours.
- There is a lot of information, all written down. But if you have any questions please have them written down and don't be afraid to ask. Please call if you have any concerns!!!

#### Rechecks:

- We will need to see your pet in 10-14 days to address the incision. Plus, give you the go-ahead to take the cone off! YAY!
- Routine orthopedic cases will be seen 4-6 weeks post-op for radiographs.
- These are included in our universal plan as long as you have an appointment, and we do not have to sedate your pet. Later recheck appointments will be scheduled as needed.
- If you have any questions, please ask!
- Please, if you have any questions, call 915-201-7121
- Dr. Silverman can be reached through our answering service. They will get back to you.