



## Happy Pet Eyes

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### Post-Cataract Surgery— Home Care Instructions

#### Post-Surgical Care

Post surgical care is a very important part of the healing process. In addition to the quality care that your pet received during their surgical stay with us, we would like to be sure that care is continued at home by providing you with all of the information necessary to do so. Your pet had surgery to remove cataracts and may have received intraocular lenses in one or both eyes.

#### What to Expect

In general, cataract surgery is not a painful procedure. Normally, pets are discharged comfortably and visual, both of which will continue to improve over the next 1-2 weeks as the associated inflammation resolves. A small amount of squinting is normal for the first 24-48 hours. Abnormal findings that require immediate attention include: blindness, blood coming from the eye or inside the eye, holding the eye closed, increased cloudiness of the cornea, or increased yellow/green discharge. It is normal for the incision at the top of the cornea to become more red as it heals - this generally is not associated with any discomfort. Discharge can be wiped or dabbed away gently, being careful not to put any pressure on the globe itself.

#### Sutures

The sutures used to close the corneal incision will dissolve over the next 4-6 weeks. As they dissolve, the area may become vascular (red veins) and raised. The sutures used are extremely thin (like human hair) and fragile so an e-collar should not be removed until the doctor directs.. A temporary suture partially closing the eyelids may also be in place but this is typically removed by the doctor after the first 1-2 weeks.

#### After General Anesthesia

Your pet was given a general anesthetic today. As soon as you get home, place them in a quiet, comfortable area where they may rest for several hours. You may notice occasional whining, whimpering and restlessness. This behavior does NOT necessarily indicate pain but may be an effect of the anesthetic and pain medication that was administered. They are generally brighter in the morning after the effects of anesthesia have worn off. If sedatives and pain medications were sent home to help keep your pet quiet, please administer as directed. Keep in mind that oral medications may take approximately 1-2 hours before they will take full effect on your pet.

#### Feeding & Water

Following cataract surgery it is very important to avoid high fatty treats (no cheese, peanut butter or human foods) as these can result in fat accumulation in the eye. You may offer small amounts of water the evening of surgery. If your pet is alert, you may also offer small amounts of their regular diet, totaling about half the amount you would normally provide at one feeding. The day after surgery, as long as there has been no vomiting, your pet may have normal food and water. We do ask that

you note whether or not your pet urinates after arriving home. If your pet has not urinated within 24 hrs. of surgery, please contact our office. Your pet may not have a bowel movement tonight or potentially for the next 24-48 hrs. Often this is normal and a result of the fasting period prior to surgery and pain medication.

#### Elizabethan Collar

A protective Elizabethan collar (plastic cone) has been placed on your pet to prevent any rubbing and irritation. The protective collar must stay on at ALL TIMES and removal can lead to devastating complications. Your pet has been properly fitted and will be able to eat, drink, and sleep with the collar on. DO NOT trim or modify the collar in any way unless done so by our staff.

#### Bandage in the leg

Your pet's leg was shaved for an intravenous catheter prior to surgery and a bandage was placed on the site after removal of the catheter. If this bandage is still on your pet at discharge, it can be removed about an hour after you arrive home. Some patients may be sent home with the intravenous catheter in place. In these cases, DO NOT remove the bandage unless you are instructed to do so by the Doctor or Technician.

#### Activity Restriction

It is crucial that activity is limited as the sutures that are in the eye are very fragile. NO running, NO jumping, NO playing with toys, NO chewing on hard bones. All walks must be leashed, harnesses are recommended over collars since no pressure on the neck. NO jumping on or off the sofa/beds or running up or down stairs. Do not groom or bathe until cleared by your surgeon.

#### Medications

In addition to this form, you will be given a medication outline/surgical report at pick up time. Please review this form as it explains what medications your pet is taking (including the frequency and route). It also explains how to administer several medications at the same time of day. All medications should be continued until directed otherwise - DO NOT run out of medications unless directed to do so by your pet's doctor.

#### When to Contact Us

Call if you notice worsening squinting, increased discharge, graft displacement, excessive swelling, or sudden vision change. If needed during an after-hours emergency, please locate the nearest Emergency veterinary hospital who can assist you at that time.