

## Overnight Care for Your Pet

**Here are a few guidelines to help you and your pet overnight tonight:**

If your pet received an epidural for pain control, **he/she may not be able to walk normally until tomorrow morning.** The epidural can also affect your pet's ability to urinate and defecate, so do not worry about taking him/her out to use the bathroom unless he/she can walk. Your veterinarian will have expressed his/her bladder prior to going home. **By the morning, your pet should be able to urinate.** Occasionally, this is delayed and if so, please contact your veterinarian.

It may take a few days for your pet to have a bowel movement.

Tonight, you can feed your pet either ½ quantity of his/her normal food or boil a little plain skinless chicken and white rice. Do not be alarmed if your pet does not want to eat because sometimes the anesthesia will make them nauseous. Unless otherwise directed, your pet can resume normal feeding in the morning.

Give your pet's medications this evening as directed by your veterinarian.

The anesthesia and pain medications your pet received can make them dysphoric which is the medical way of saying they are "whiny and not acting like themselves". This is normal and some pets experience more dysphoria than others. Be assured that your pet received more than adequate pain control both before and after surgery. The best thing you can do is put him/her some place **safe, warm and quiet like a small room or a large crate** and let him/her "sleep it off".

Unless your pet had a TPLO, **we would like you to bring your pet back to your veterinarian tomorrow so that a follow-up exam can be performed.**

If your pet had a TPLO, the bandage will need to be removed by you at home the day after surgery. There is a pull tab on the colored outer layer (vet wrap) and you can unravel that and then unravel the white cast padding. There will be a "band aid" (Hypafix) over the incision site and that can stay in place until it starts loosening from the skin which can take up to a week after surgery.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call TVSS at 919-495-1177.

***\*\*If you feel that your pet is not recovering as expected or you have immediate concerns, your veterinarian recommends the following emergency hospital\*\****

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