

**FOLLY GARDENS VET CLINIC  
NO1. FOLLY GARDENS, BARTON ROAD, TEWKESBURY,  
GLOS  
01684 292244**

**POST OPERATIVE CARE NOTES FOR CATS WITH STITCHES**

Following a general anaesthetic or sedation it may take several days for your pet to fully recuperate. When your pet arrives home he/she may still be sleepy and for the first 24 hours it is important that he/she has peace and quiet. Avoid children playing with him/her, televisions, radios or sudden noises. There is no need to wrap him/her in a blanket or provide hot water bottles unless you are advised to do so. A warm room will be adequate.

**DIET**

Feeding on the day and the day following the operation should be on a little and often basis of an easily digestible food such as chicken, white fish or scrambled egg with rice. After the first 24 hours, unless instructed otherwise, your pet can return to a normal but light diet. Avoid bulky foods. Tinned food or cooked meats are better for approximately 7 days to avoid constipation. A small bowl of water should be left with your pet but do not allow him/her to consume large quantities at any one time - this may induce vomiting which must be avoided.

**MEDICATION**

If you have been given medication for your pet please ensure he/she is given the full course as directed on the label. If you have any difficulty in administering the medication or he/she vomits shortly afterwards please telephone the surgery for advice. Some medication is bitter to taste, so therefore hiding it in something tasty may provide a better result. Medication may be given in food unless otherwise advised but please ensure it is not left in the bottom of the bowl!!

**STITCHES**

Your pet will usually have stitches or staples closing the operation site. Please keep a DAILY check on the wound. Do not allow him/her to disturb the site by licking or biting. Cats usually leave stitches alone but should your pet be paying attention to them please let us know immediately. Special Elizabethan collars to prevent wound disturbance can be dispensed if necessary. There should be no discharge or swelling from the wound and it should not smell. If you are worried please contact us.

Stitches are usually removed 10 days after the operation, unless you are advised otherwise, and are removed during a normal consultation - if you have not made an appointment for suture removal, please telephone the surgery for a convenient time.

IF AT ANY STAGE YOU NOTICE A SWELLING AT THE SITE OF THE OPERATION PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY. This may indicate the start of a problem. It is not necessary to bathe the operation site unless you are advised to do so.

## EXERCISE

If your pet usually spends time outdoors it is advisable to keep him/her confined whilst the stitches are in, therefore allowing you to keep an eye on the wound and to ensure your pet is eating, drinking, urinating and defaecating normally. Please try to keep your pet as inactive as possible, avoiding jumping onto furniture, climbing stairs etc which could damage any underlying stitches and can result in him/her undergoing more surgery.

Your pet should return to normal after the first 24 hours, but if you are concerned, we run a 24 hour emergency service, so there is always someone available to give advice.

Should you have any questions or worries please do not hesitate to contact the surgery for advice.