



Matanzas River Animal Hospital

Call/Text: 904-794-4002

Email: info@matanzasrivervet.com

Dental Discharge Instructions:

- When can I feed my pet, and how much should I offer?
 - We recommend waiting until roughly 7pm just for the first night home.
 - Anesthesia can make some patients suffer upset stomach, to limit any risk of vomiting offer only about 1/3 the usual dinner amount.
 - If they eat the entire quantity given and still seem hungry, wait thirty minutes to offer another 1/3 portion.
 - If they refuse to eat, please do not be too concerned as it is normal for some patients to not want anything by mouth for another 6 to 12 hours.
 - Offer small amounts of water but continue to make water accessible. If the patient drinks too much too soon it may cause vomiting.
 - If they still refuse food the next morning please call our hospital, there is no charge to recheck after a surgery.
 - If your pet has had extractions today and you are concerned eating might be painful here are a few suggestions:
 - If their usual diet is hard kibble, you can soften this by adding a small amount of warm water or low sodium chicken broth. Allow 5 to 10 minutes for the kibble to absorb the liquid and soften.
 - If their usual diet is canned food, you can continue to follow the above instructions. If desired, you can add a little low sodium chicken broth to soften it further.
 - If you want to add a special treat, a small amount of chicken or turkey baby food can be given in addition to their usual diet.
 - We do not recommend changing the diet, it can increase the risk of upset stomach and diarrhea.
- Are there any restrictions or limitations for my pet?
 - Normal activities can be resumed by the morning following their procedure.
 - If diet accommodations were made, normal diet can be resumed on day three after the procedure.
- What if my pet isn't feeling well at home?
 - After anesthesia some patients may suffer minor acute cases of gastro-intestinal upset. This can present to you as nausea, vomiting, and even diarrhea.
 - Some patients, particularly geriatric or elderly ones, may take a little longer to get out from under the sedative effects of anesthesia. This can present as a general lethargy, an abundance of sleeping, or in some cases wanting to hide and be alone for a time.
 - If your patient had extractions, there may be swelling noted around the muzzle or cheeks. There may be a tinge of blood in the water when they drink for the first few times.
 - In the above instances know that it is always temporary and should wear off in the next 12 to 24 hours. If any of the symptoms persist beyond that period call our hospital, there is no charge for us to recheck your patient after surgery.
 - If any of the above symptoms are concerning, such as excessive vomiting or diarrhea, please call the hospital as soon as possible. There are medications we can dispense to help ease the symptoms if needed.
- What can I do if I believe my pet to be in pain?
 - In the instance of extractions, oral pain medication should have been sent home with you, please check your bag to make sure you have them.
 - If they are lost, missing, or you have questions about the label instructions please call the hospital to speak with a member of our staff.

- In addition to this/these medications if you still believe your patient to be suffering discomfort or pain there are a few other suggestions.
 - Some patients will simply appreciate spending more time near you, speaking in calming tones to them so a sense of security and familiarity returns.
 - Some patients will benefit more from a little exercise, to work out any stiffness developed in the hospital. Taking them out on a brief walk around the yard can perk up their spirits while alleviating low levels of discomfort.
 - If you do not believe the pain medication dispensed is covering the full extent of pain despite attempts with the above options, please call our hospital to speak with a staff member. There may be other medications we can add to help in cases of extreme discomfort.

If at any time you have any questions, concerns, or needs please text or call 904-794-4002 or email us at info@matanzasrivervet.com to contact the hospital staff. We are always available and eager to help you and your pet safely get through this recovery period without worry.