

Care of your cat following FHNO Surgery

The following medications have been dispensed. Please ensure **all doses** are given. If you are having difficulty dosing medications or your pet develops diarrhoea or vomiting, please seek **immediate** veterinary advice.

Medication:

Key Points for Aftercare:

The operation site will have been clipped (other sites may also have been clipped for administering drugs and fluids). Avoid your cat interfering with clipped sites. Wounds may be covered with a light adhesive dressing; this may work loose, or can be removed, after three to five days. It is advisable for your cat to wear a protective collar to prevent attention to the stitches or dressings. This should stay in place until the wound has healed/external stitches removed. It is important to prevent your cat licking the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

A pad may be covering the wound at the time of discharge from the hospital. This can be removed after several days, or immediately if soiled. Medications e.g., Pain killers will be dispensed.

Some swelling of the operated limb following surgery is normal. **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes every few hours in the first few days following surgery may help to reduce swelling and improve comfort. If the surgical site is causing excessive irritation, is **discharging** or if you are concerned **swelling** is excessive, please seek **immediate** veterinary advice.

Confinement and permitted activity:

Passive range-of-motion exercises should be commenced within 5 to 7 days of surgery, but only if tolerated. Slowly flex and extend the affected hip twenty to thirty times and repeat three to six times daily.

Your cat should be kept confined to **eliminate running and jumping**: a cage is ideal initially.

5 - 7 days following surgery allow supervised walking in one room with only low-level furniture and non-slip flooring for 5 minutes at a time, three to six times daily, but **maintain cage confinement** at other times.

After 10 – 14 days, confinement may be relaxed to a single room with only low-level furniture (to prevent jumping) and non-slip flooring (temporary use of rugs or carpet offcuts is recommended for tiled floors).

After 4 weeks confinement may be further relaxed to the entire house. Be sure to lock any cat doors.

Unrestricted activity may normally be resumed after six weeks.

Hydrotherapy is beneficial to recovery and should be considered if progress in the first few weeks is unsatisfactory but should ideally be performed in a centre with qualified personnel who have **previous experience with cats**. Many (but not all) cats adapt to hydrotherapy surprisingly well.

Re-examinations with your vet:

- **Morning** after surgery if your cat was discharged the same day as surgery
- **3 - 5 days** following surgery: post-surgery check-up
- **7 – 10 days** after surgery: check on wound healing (+/- suture/staple removal, if present).

- **4 weeks** following surgery
- **8 weeks** following surgery

Gradual improvement should be expected following surgery. If deterioration occurs, please contact your vet immediately.

Variation from these aftercare instructions may increase the risk of post-surgical complications or otherwise affect outcome; only make variations if **specifically advised** to do so by your vet.