



LITTLE SENECA ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Germantown, MD 20876
301-540-8670

INSTRUCTIONS AFTER GENERAL ANESTHESIA

- Anesthesia can cause nausea and thirst. Offer your pet only a small amount of water once he/she is at home. Do not give water if your pet is excited. Wait until he/she calms down.
- You may offer a small amount of food if your pet is not showing signs of nausea, discomfort, etc.
- On the morning following the anesthesia, you may give food and water in normal amounts unless your pet has been vomiting. If so, please call the hospital for further instruction.
- Anesthesia and/or tranquilizers may make animals stumble or fall; you will need to protect them to make sure this does not happen. Try to avoid having your pet go up or down stairs until he/she is completely back to normal.
- Often, cats (and occasionally dogs) will be a little skittish when they go home. Be cautious, especially with young children. Do not force yourself or allow others to force themselves on your pet. It is sometimes best to put them in a quiet, dark room for the evening. This will help them to relax.
- We HIGHLY recommend the use of a cat carrier to transport your cat to and from your home at all times. Cats can be easily startled by the sound of a car backfiring, a car horn, even the slamming of a car door or any other sounds beyond your control. This is especially important after anesthesia!
- Most animals recover from anesthetics by the evening of the same day; it is not unusual for them to be a little quiet and they may not want to eat. However, they should be doing well by the following morning. This depends on the age of the animal, overall health and type of procedure.
- If your pet has a bandage on his/her leg, it can be removed when you arrive at home. This was placed there to prevent bleeding after the IV catheter was removed, but is safe to be removed once you're home.

If your animal is not back to normal by the following day or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.