

## Post-Surgery Care Help Your Pet Heal Faster

After any surgical procedure, the care you give your pet at home is critical to their healing and their comfort. We give you specific post-procedure instructions because improper follow-up care can create complications even after a surgery goes well. Therefore, it's best to schedule procedures when someone can be home to provide the extra care.

Although procedures vary in healing time, level of pain, and risk of complications, following these guidelines and adhering to all instructions we give you will contribute to your pet's well-being.

- 🐾 Give the full course of medications we prescribe and give them on time. Antibiotics are only effective if the full course is given. We also give you a schedule for pain medications so that you aren't "chasing the pain" by waiting until your pet is already in distress.
- 🐾 Restrict activity, even if your pet wants to romp. Provide a soft, padded place for them to rest that is not too hot or cold. Limit outdoor time to short intervals on-leash. Depending on the procedure, activity could be restricted for a few days to several months. We will also give you a timeframe for rehabilitation activities.
- 🐾 We may provide your pet with an e-collar to keep them from licking or biting at a wound site, which can cause infection or reopen a wound.
- 🐾 Adhere to any dietary restrictions we suggest.
- 🐾 Check the incision site several times a day for signs of infection. Call us if you see increased swelling, draining, redness, hardness, heat or new bleeding.
- 🐾 Watch for signs of anxiety or stress. Spending more time with your pet and providing comfort will help them cope.
- 🐾 Be sure to bring your pet in for post-procedure checkups as recommended. This is our opportunity to make sure they are healing as expected.

We are devoted to your pet's comfort and good health. If you are unsure about any post-procedure instructions or notice anything unusual, be sure to call us.



## Goose Honks Celebrating 60 Years!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!!! Well, really, it's my mom, Dr. Moore. Okay, okay, it's really Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital. Happy birthday to Oak Forest! My mom said the hospital is turning 60 years old this year! I can't even count how much that is in dog years.

I was just a puppy when my mom purchased the old building but I do remember how it looked. It only had 2 exam rooms and 2 veterinarians working. Crazy how the hospital has grown to accommodate 7 exam rooms and has 6 veterinarians! And let's not forget about all

the staff that give me pets and treats when I come in! I can't wait to see what else is in store for the hospital.

Gotta go ... I am going to see if I can sneak a lick of the birthday cake icing; my brother Knox is too scared to!

*Goose*

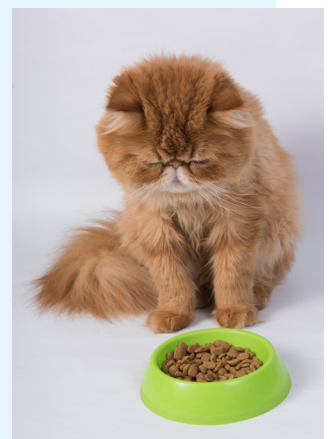
## Why Your Cat Isn't Eating Understanding Feline Anorexia

Cats are known to be finicky creatures, so you might not feel too alarmed when your cat suddenly won't eat. Since they tend to hide pain and illness, however, this is a symptom that should get your attention. The problem may be as simple as a change in their food, or it could be a sign of a serious illness.

A number of diseases can cause anorexia, including gastrointestinal parasites, ulcers, food allergies and some cancers. Liver disease and diseases of the pancreas can also cause appetite loss. Even minor bacterial or fungal infections can cause the appetite to diminish. Kidney disease can cause ulcers of the mouth and stomach, which can lead to anorexia in felines. Allergies, which can develop at any stage in life, can also cause general lethargy and lack of appetite.

Most commonly, a cat's sudden refusal to eat is due to painful dental problems or to food changes. If a change in diet is necessary, make the switch gradually by mixing the new food with the regular food, increasing the ratios over several days. Even slight changes, such as a different flavor of the same brand, can upset a finicky feline's eating habits.

If there hasn't been a change in food, prolonged appetite problems can indicate illness. Bring this to our attention so we can do a thorough exam to determine the cause of the anorexia.



## Canine Cushing's Disease Symptoms and Treatment



Cushing's disease (CD) is a common endocrinological disorder in dogs that affects as many as two dogs in every 1,000 each year. Untreated, the disease can have severe consequences. With CD, the glands produce too much of a hormone called ACTH, which produces cortisol. In some cases, Cushing's disease is caused by a small tumor on the pituitary gland, and tumors can also grow on the adrenal glands. Both cause excess cortisol production.



The first symptoms of Cushing's disease may be similar to those of other health problems. Your dog may tire easily after exertion. You may also notice increased panting and thirst, leading to accidents in the house due to increased water consumption. Other symptoms include hair loss, thinner skin, and increased appetite.

An enlarged abdomen or "pot-bellied" appearance is often present. This is because Cushing's disease causes fat to be re-distributed to the abdomen and can also cause an enlarged liver. Weakening of the heart and muscles also occurs in Cushing's disease, so a previously active dog may become lethargic. Calcified skin lumps, called calcinosis cutis, may also be present.

All of these symptoms can be helpful in diagnosis. Blood testing for increased liver enzymes, decreased kidney function, and increased alkaline phosphate levels give us a more definitive diagnosis. Abdominal ultrasounds and other tests can also help confirm a diagnosis.

Fortunately, several medications are available to treat canine Cushing's disease. These medications require monitoring through blood testing to determine levels in the body. Sometimes, surgery to remove tumors from the adrenal gland is recommended. Your dog can live comfortably for many years with CD if the disease is managed.



# Fleas and Disease

## Prevent Parasites from Harming Your Pet



Spring is in the air and it's a great time for your pet to be outdoors. Unfortunately, springtime also brings with it those nagging little critters: fleas. Fleas can do more than just irritate your pet. They are known carriers of many pathogens that can affect both pets and humans. The itch from flea bites can make your pet miserable, but they can also cause more serious problems.

### Blood Loss

The flea not only bites but also ingests your pet's blood. A serious infestation can cause anemia, severe discomfort, and eventually, death from blood loss. Small kittens and puppies are especially at risk.

### Allergic Reactions

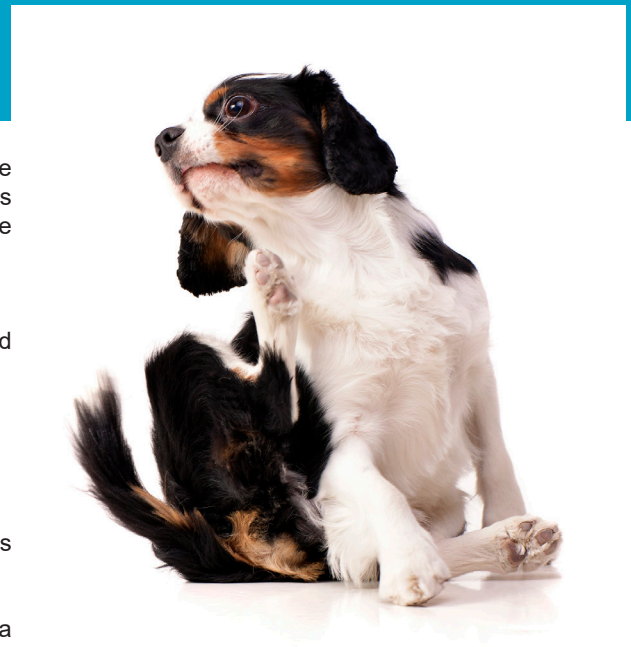
Animals can develop allergic reactions to fleas. Look for vomiting, excessive scratching or fur loss.

### Tapeworms

Tapeworms are passed into a host animal by an infected flea—a widespread occurrence that can affect both humans and their pets. Cats and dogs commonly ingest the flea and tapeworm larvae while grooming themselves.

The dangers of flea infestation are best avoided through a combination of tactics. Vacuuming daily is suggested as flea eggs tend to fall into the deepest parts of carpeting and can survive up to a year. If you discover fleas, be sure to also wash all bedding and areas your pets frequent. Contact a pest control professional if the infestation is serious.

Most importantly, your pet should be on a flea preventative medication recommended by your vet. We will help you find the preventative that best suits you and your pet. With a proper prevention protocol, you and your pets can enjoy the beautiful days of spring!



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Not valid with any other offer.  
Expires 5/31/2024.

### Drop-off Savings

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Expires 5/31/2024.



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*Spring Checkup Time*



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appointment  
today!

