

Discharge Instructions – Patent Ductus Arteriosus

Procedure: PDA Ligation

Prognosis: Your companion has a good chance to make a full recovery. Follow-up with the cardiologist is recommended to evaluate the function of the heart (which will help predict the long-term prognosis).

Convalescent period: Recovery following PDA ligation is typically is fairly rapid. Please give us a call if your pet is not eating with a few days.

Bowel movements: Your companion may not have a bowel movement for the next few days after surgery. If your companion does not have a bowel movement after 4 days or is straining to defecate, constipation may be present. Unflavored Miralax at a dose of 1/2 of a teaspoon per 25 lbs of body weight can be mixed in canned food (in each meal) as a laxative.

Exercise: Limit activity for 3 to 4 weeks. No jumping, climbing stairs or rough-housing with other pets or people. Strenuous activity may result in complications after surgery.

Respirations: Please frequently check your pet's mucous membrane color. Please note the character and rate of your pet's breathing pattern. If you note that your pet has a respiratory rate above 40 per minute or the gums are pale or blue/gray color, or if the breathing appears labored (open-mouth breathing) your pet should be taken to an emergency hospital immediately.

Incision: Please check the incisions for signs of infection: redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Please put a Onesie or infant tee shirt on your pet to protect the incision for 10 days.

Recheck examination: Please return to Animal Surgical Center in 2 weeks for an evaluation (or see your primary care veterinarian). Please return to your pet's cardiologist in 4 months for a follow-up cardiac evaluation.

Animal Surgical
Center of MI