Discharge Instructions Following PRAA Surgery

Procedure: Thoracotomy and division of the esophageal constricting ligamentum arteriosum associated with a persistent right aortic arch (PRAA).

Prognosis: Your pet has about an 80% chance to regain good esophageal function, thus resolution of regurgitation. Some dogs will continue to have issues with megaesophagus, thus eating kibble may not be possible and upright feedings in a Bailey’s chair will be needed life-long.

Convalescent period: Recovery of normal esophageal function following surgery may take a few months. Please give us a call if your pet is not eating when she is at home.

Bowel movements: Your pet may not have a bowel movement for the next few days after surgery. If she does not have a bowel movement after 4 days or is straining to defecate, constipation may be present. Unflavored metamucil at a dose of 1 teaspoon per 50 lb body weight can be mixed in canned food (in each meal) as a laxative.

Feedings: Please continue feeding your pet upright with soft gruel for the next 2 weeks or until there is no further regurgitation. Keep her upright in a Bailey’s chair (https://www.baileychairs4dogs.com) for about 10 minutes after each feeding. We may change your pet’s feeding program at the 2-week recheck evaluation depending on how she has been doing at home (i.e. no regurgitation).

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

Respiration: 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 she has a respiratory rate greater than 40 per minute or her gums are pale or gray/blue, or if the breathing appears labored (open-mouth breathing) she should be taken to an emergency hospital immediately.

Incision: Please check the incision 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 of Michigan in 2 weeks for an evaluation of the incision. Please return to Animal Surgical
Center of Michigan in 12 weeks for a follow-up esophagram (x-ray with contrast swallow).

TYPICAL PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS:

1. Nocita (3 day Bupivacaine) - Administered in Surgery
2. Metoclopramide syrup
3. Omeprazole
4. Sucralfate
5. Pain controlling medication such as
   a. Gabapentin
   b. Tramadol
   c. Codeine
6. Amoxicillin Tri/Clavulanate suspension
7. Meloxicam