



# Countryside Animal Hospital

PAW Prints

Spring 2021

## Post-Procedure Care

### Help Your Pet Heal Faster

**A**fter any surgical procedure, the care you give your pet at home is critical to their healing and their comfort. Complications can arise without proper post-op care, so it's best to schedule procedures when someone can be home to provide the extra care if possible.

Although procedures vary in healing time, level of pain, and risk of complications, following these guidelines and adhering to all post-procedure instructions we give you will contribute to your fur-baby'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 for post-procedure checkups as recommended. This is our opportunity to make sure he or she is healing as expected.

If you are unsure about any post-procedure instructions or notice anything unusual, be sure to call us!



## Coming Home Again

### Why Every Pet Should Be Microchipped

**M**icrochip technology has helped many lost pets return home. A tiny chip, the size of a grain of rice, is implanted under your pet's skin with a hypodermic needle in a quick procedure with minimal discomfort. If your lost pet is found, a veterinarian or shelter will use a scanner that is passed over the area. The chip transmits an identification number linked to the database where your contact information is registered.



Microchipping greatly increases the likelihood of locating your lost pet.

According to an AVMA study, dogs without microchips are returned to their owners 21.9% of the time, while microchipped dogs are returned 52.2% of the time. Cats without microchips are reunited with their owners only 1.8% of the time, while 38.5% of microchipped felines are returned to their homes. Moreover, if your dog or cat is stolen and there is a dispute, the chip and registration are your proof of ownership.

All pets that go outdoors can potentially get away from us and become lost. We also recommend chipping indoor cats; if lost, they may have an especially difficult time finding home. If your pets are not yet microchipped, please call us to make an appointment and help ensure that your lost pet can come home!

## Feline Health Challenge

### Detecting Pancreatitis in Cats

**P**ancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas that prevents the organ from functioning properly. An inflamed pancreas is a serious issue because the pancreas produces important hormones and enzymes that allow your cat's body to regulate blood sugar and digest food. Pancreatitis can range from mild to fatal.

Some environmental factors such as pesticides have been linked to the disease, but the most common cause is dietary. The diet we feed our cats today is far from their natural diet of fresh meat and zero carbs, and they are prone to having intestinal issues. The pancreas must work extra hard to process the added carbohydrates.



Common symptoms of pancreatitis in cats are lethargy and lack of appetite, although these can be difficult to notice since cats sleep a lot and can be picky eaters. This is why it's important to contact us if you see any change in your cat's appetite, weight or behavior.

If we suspect pancreatitis, a combination of diagnostic tests can help us detect the disease. Once we have helped your kitty through the critical phase, we will monitor the disease for recurrences and will likely recommend dietary changes.

## Hyperthyroidism in Cats

### A Growing Epidemic in Older Felines

**H**yperthyroidism, which typically affects cats over age 10, is the most common endocrine disorder affecting felines. It is usually caused by a benign tumor on one of the thyroid glands, which are located in the neck. The thyroid gland produces thyroxine, which regulates your cat's metabolism. Hyperthyroidism is a condition in which too much thyroxine is produced, causing your cat's metabolism to increase. This stresses your cat's organs, especially the heart, kidneys, nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, and liver.

There has been a significant increase in feline hyperthyroidism in the U.S. In addition to age, there are environmental risks that are thought to have a connection to the disease, including exposure to flame-retardant materials, fish-flavored cat food, and high levels of iodine in the diet. We are always happy to discuss an optimal diet for your kitty.

Symptoms of hyperthyroidism may include increased appetite, increased thirst, rapid heart rate, vomiting, hyperactivity, and an unkempt coat. Panting or finding cooler places to rest are also symptoms. In older cats, if increased appetite is combined with weight loss and sudden bursts of energy, this is a tell-tale sign of an overactive thyroid.

Please call us right away if you notice these symptoms! Early detection is important to your cat's prognosis. We will run a comprehensive set of tests to measure thyroid levels in the blood. If we suspect hyperthyroidism, we can discuss treatment options.



If your kitty is getting older, be sure to ask us about our budget-friendly Pet Annual Wellness (PAW) Plan specifically designed for senior cats. It includes thyroid testing and other important tests as well as regular exams to help us keep your aging furball healthy!



**Call us at (480) 775-9966 today to make an appointment!**



## Parasite Patrol

### Worms Can Ruin Your Pet's Health!

**T**hese menacing nasty parasites would love to invade your pet's body and destroy their health. Some worms can also infect the human members of your household! Following are 5 common varieties:

**Heartworms:** Heartworm disease can devastate a pet's quality of life. Spread to a cat or dog when they are bit by an infected mosquito, this parasite can grow to a foot long, living in the heart and lungs. Heartworm treatment for dogs is very harsh on its own and requires hospitalization. There is no cure for cats—prevention is the only option.

**Hookworms:** More common in dogs, eggs from adult hookworms are shed into the environment where their larvae can be ingested or can penetrate the skin of your pet. Hookworm infestation causes diarrhea, weight loss and anemia, and can cause severe anemia in puppies and older dogs.

**Roundworms:** Roundworms can grow to be 3 to 5 inches long. They migrate to the lungs where they are often coughed up. Infected mothers frequently transmit the parasites to their puppies and kittens, who may have respiratory problems and appear pot-bellied.

**Whipworms:** More common in dogs than cats, whipworms live in the large intestine and are often difficult to diagnose because they shed very few eggs. The eggs can survive for years in soil, water, food and feces. Infestation can cause dehydration, anemia, and weight loss.

**Tapeworms:** Tapeworms are long, segmented worms that attach themselves to your pet's intestines and can grow large enough to cause an obstruction. They are transmitted to your pet through fleas and infected animals. Small segments that look like rice may appear in the stool or under the tail.

How can you prevent these health-stealing parasites from infecting your dog or cat? Strictly follow the parasite protection plan we recommend! Our PAW (Pet Annual Wellness) Plans for pets include intestinal fecal exams as well as deworming if needed. Be sure to ask us for details!



*Help us create a happy future  
for your four-legged friend!*



Countryside  
Animal Hospital

8701 S. Rural Road  
Tempe, AZ 85284

[www.countrysideanimal.com](http://www.countrysideanimal.com)

#### Re-FUR a Friend and save!

Refer a new  
client and you'll  
each save \$25 on  
your next visits.

Ask us for details.

Not valid with any other offer.  
One coupon per client.  
Expires 5/31/2021.

#### Save \$24 on Heartgard

Purchase 12 months  
of Heartgard  
preventative and save  
\$12 at checkout

#### PLUS

receive a \$12 Rebate  
in the Mail

Pets must be tested for  
heartworm annually  
before we can prescribe a  
preventative.

#### Our Pet Annual Wellness Plans now include four yearly routine exams!

Spread out your pet's  
healthcare costs plus  
take advantage of  
significant savings  
with PAW Plans.

Call us today so we  
can help you find a  
plan that's just right  
for you and your pet.

**Call (480) 775-9966**

today to make your appointment!

**Large or small, we love them all!**



Countryside  
Animal Hospital

**Call (480) 775-9966  
today to make  
an appointment!**

