

PACEMAKER DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please keep your dog relatively calm for the next month. Any form of jumping (on/off bed or couch, into car, off stairs, etc) could cause the pacemaker lead to dislodge. This is best accomplished by complete "Condo" rest and leash walks with a harness to urinate/defecate.
2. Please monitor your dog's incision for swelling or redness once the bandage is removed. The bandage should stay in place for the next 5 days if possible to provide gentle compression. If it becomes wet or soiled, it should be removed sooner. After 5 days, it can be removed at home or by your family veterinarian. If redness or swelling is noted, you can use 10 minutes of alternating warm and cold compresses over the incision site every 6 hours to help prevent seroma (fluid pocket under the skin) formation.
3. From now on, your pet should never wear a collar and neck leads (leashes) should be avoided. Instead, a harness or gentle leader should be used. It is very important to make sure the harness is fitted correctly. If you are using a gentle leader, it is important to have them walk on the right side so the neck is not flexed excessively to the left side (which will put tension on the pacemaker lead).
4. It is very important that all future veterinary care workers be advised you're your pet's pacemaker is within the RIGHT JUGULAR VEIN. This vein should NEVER be utilized for venipuncture, as this could introduce bacteria into system and could lead to endocarditis. To avoid the risk of a misunderstanding we recommend that neither jugular vein be used for future blood draws.
5. Skin sutures should be removed in two weeks with your cardiology team (if possible), or your family veterinarian. If suture removal is done at your family veterinarians office, please confirm the location of one or two incision sites with your cardiology team.
6. Please recheck with your cardiology team in one month to re-interrogate the pacemaker function and adjust pacemaker settings (if needed).
7. If your pet has any syncopal (fainting) or weakness during recovery and/or in the future please let your cardiology team know immediately.
8. Please contact your cardiology team prior to any dental or surgical procedures being performed on your pet as sometimes aggressive prophylactic antibiotic treatment and temporary adjustment to the pacemaker rate may be recommended.

If you have any questions regarding your pet's recovery or future cardiac care, please do not hesitate to contact your Rocky Mountain Veterinary Cardiology team at Alpenglow (Boulder) or VRCC (Englewood).