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Client FIV Handout

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a cats-only virus that is very similar to HIV in humans. FIV infection cannot be eliminated in a cat, but the cat may live symptom-free for a very long time or a normal life span. This virus is most commonly spread through bite wounds. Spaying or neutering greatly decreases fighting, and therefore helps to decrease risk of FIV infection to other cats. Please see your regular veterinarian for confirmation of positive test status and health care recommendations.

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Heartworm disease is an infection acquired from mosquitos that results in worms living in a dog or cat's heart, lungs, and surrounding blood vessels. A monthly pill easily prevents heartworm infection; once acquired, the infection can also, more expensively, be treated. Without treatment, this disease will slowly progress until it becomes fatal. Please see your regular veterinarian for treatment recommendations.

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- Please apply an ice pack, wrapped in a clean cloth, to the incision and surrounding area 2 to 3 times a day.
  - Apply for 10 minutes at a time to alleviate swelling.
  - Avoid placing ice pack directly on skin.
  - Discontinue icing 48 hours after surgery.
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- Your dog has been prescribed Meloxicam, which is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It will provide pain control and help to decrease swelling.
- Please follow all label directions, and give the medication with a meal.
- Do not give this medication if your dog is already on an NSAID or any form of steroid.
- Possible side effects include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dark stools, and/or decreased activity.
- If you see any of these side effects, stop giving the medication and contact Humane Alliance at **855-4FIX-AVL**. This help line is open 24 hours.

Updated: 6/27/16

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A doctor has noted that your animal has an abnormal skin condition. Oftentimes, fleas are a major factor in this. Your animal may also have allergies, yeast, and/or bacterial infections. Please see your regular veterinarian so that your animal may be treated appropriately and become more comfortable. Good over-the-counter flea products for dogs and cats include *Advantage* and *Frontline* (which will treat ticks as well).

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- Run hot water over a wash-cloth.
  - Wring out wash-cloth so it is damp, but not dripping wet.
  - We want the wash-cloth to be as warm as possible, BUT if it is too hot for your face, it is too hot for your pet.
  - Hold the warm wash-cloth against the surgery area for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes, \_\_\_\_\_ times a day for \_\_\_ days.
  - The warm compress will help healing and make your pet more comfortable.
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