

## **Spay and Neuter Post-Operative Care Instructions**

Your pet has had an operation that requires proper care and observation for the next few days. Recovery for each pet varies on the type of procedure, your pet's age, and general condition. If you have any other questions, please contact us at (425) 644 7002 during regular business hours, or come in for a complementary surgical recheck.

## **CONVALESCENCE**

Your pet may be sedate or sleepy when you pick them up, this is normal and a result of the anesthesia. Keep your pet in a warm, dry, quiet place away from all other animals and children for at least the next 24 hours. Your pet should be kept indoors with limited activity for the next 10-14 days. Dogs should be taken out on leashes for short potty breaks during this time. Pets should resume normal urination and defecation within 72 hours after surgery, please contact us if your pet is straining to urinate or defecate after this time.

## **FEEDING**

This evening, feed your pet a small amount of food and water unless otherwise instructed. It is common for pets to not eat, and post-anesthetic vomiting is common on the first night. Resume normal feeding the next day and ensure there is clean water available.

## **E-COLLAR**

We recommend an e-collar or cone for this duration to prevent licking of the incision site. We only provide the plastic e-collar at our clinic, please seek other restraint collar options at your local pet stores. If your pet struggles at first, **DO NOT PANIC** and take the collar off. Give them a chance to adjust to the cone, you may use your pet's own collar or harness to secure the cone on. You may remove the e-collar for meals and supervise during feeding. Replace the e-collar immediately after your pet is done. While we observe all patients post-operatively for the occurrence of licking of their incision, it is ultimately your responsibility as the pet owner to monitor your pet for excessive licking once released into your care. E-collar should be worn for 10-14 days.

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

If your pet easily allows; check the surgery site daily to ensure that it is healing. Excessive licking, swelling, lack of appetite or vomiting after the first day, or listlessness are symptoms of concern and should they occur, please contact our office or bring your pet in. Incisions can open and/or become infected very quickly once a pet starts licking at the surgical site. Observe the incision site for redness, discharge, bad odors, bruising, and growing bumps.

## **SUTURE REMOVAL**

Routine spays and neuters do not require suture removal unless otherwise instructed at time of discharge. Pets that do require sutures should have them removed 10-14 days after surgery unless otherwise noted. Call for an appointment.

**PROCEDURE INFORMATION**

• **NEUTER**

The surgical removal of both testicles is performed. The scrotum or skin is NOT removed. The incision is made just in front of the scrotum, or, for younger dogs, in the scrotum. There may be an abdominal or other skin incision for cryptorchid neuters. Neutered males can get an unspayed female pregnant for up to 30 days after the procedure. Male dogs may experience some swelling of the scrotum during the initial 4 days after the procedure. If this should occur, the application of ice packs for 5 to 10 minutes three times daily may be helpful.

• **SPAY**

The surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus, or ovariohysterectomy, is performed. An incision into the abdominal cavity is made located on the stomach of your pet. If your pet was in heat at the time of the surgery, she should be kept away from males for the next 2 weeks. Your pet will retain the odor which attracts males and may still be receptive to them, keep spayed females away from unneutered males for 7 days. If a male attempts to mate with her, there is a risk of the internal sutures rupturing and causing internal bleeding. If your pet was pregnant at the time of surgery she will take longer to recuperate from surgery. She will probably be slightly anemic and a little more lethargic.

**Suture information**

- Suture or staple removal needed in \_\_\_\_ days
- Dissolvable sutures were used and do not need to be removed

**Medications**

- No medications are being prescribed
- The following medications are being prescribed :
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ Begin medication \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ Begin medication \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Restrict jumping and playing for 7 days after surgery, excessive activity can cause the surgery site to swell or open. Do not take your pet for long walks or allow them to roughhouse with other animals or people. Do not allow your pet to jump on or off furniture. Do not allow your pet to swim.

You may place your pet in an adequately sized kennel, crate, carrier, or small room when you are not able to supervise them. The animal must be able to stand up and turn around in that space. If your pet is small, carry them up and down stairs.

Do not bathe or groom your pet for 14 days after the surgery.

Surgical rechecks can be done to ensure proper healing up to 14 days post op. Call for an appointment.

**\*For cats**

Dust from the litter may enter the incision site and cause an infection. Shredded paper, Yesterday's News brand litter, or uncooked, long-grain rice should be used in the litter box for at least a week after surgery.