

# Spay/Neuter Post-Operative Care Instructions



## **Immediate post-op care:**

- Feed smaller meals for the first 24 hours after surgery.
  - You may offer food in very small amounts for the first 12 hours.
  - Do not be concerned if your pet does not want to eat right away.
  - Remove food until morning if vomiting occurs. Offer normal amounts of water.
    - If vomiting continues or your pet is not eating within 48 hours of surgery, please contact us.
- Kittens and puppies should be offered food and water upon returning home.
- Do not give aspirin, Advil or Tylenol to your pet for pain. **These medications can be deadly.**
- Keep the pet in a confined area away from other pets and children for at least 24 hours.
  - Do not place them in a high place (bed, sofa, etc.). Rest and sleep are essential for healing.
- A small amount of blood near the incision can be normal immediately after surgery.
  - You will not see any stitches, only surgical glue, which provides protection for the incision.
- Male cats often have small amounts of blood from their incision site for the first few days after surgery.
- You must keep your pet from licking the incision or the surgical glue.
  - If your pet cannot be restrained from licking, we recommend an E-collar, which prevents licking.
- If your pet is using an E-collar, prepare for them to react negatively at first. It will be awkward for them, and hinder their movement. It takes pets 24 hours to get used to the collar, but then they are accepting of it.
- Your pet had eye drops for protection during surgery. This makes the eyes look weepy.

## **For the next week:**

- Keep your pet in a clean environment that is quiet, warm, and dry.
  - Keep your pets indoors for the next 7 days.
- Restrict your pet's activity. No running or jumping for 7-10 days. Walk dogs only on a leash.
- **Check your pet's incision daily.**
  - A small amount of redness and very mild swelling is normal.
  - Do not allow your pet to lick the incision site.
  - If your pet is wearing an E-collar, do not remove for 3-7 days, or until your pet seems uninterested in licking the incision site.
- Do not wash or clean the incision. *Do not bathe or get your pet wet for 7 days.*
- **Keep males and females separated.** They may try to breed for several weeks after surgery, and
  - Neutered males can be fertile for up to six weeks after surgery.
  - Spayed females that were in heat can have bloody discharge for a few days after surgery.

***If you believe your animal is experiencing a life-threatening emergency (trouble breathing, unresponsive, bleeding profusely, etc.) take your pet to VSH (Veterinary Specialty Hospital ER) 919-861-0109.***

- Trouble breathing
- Unresponsive
- Profuse bleeding
- Unable to stand or walk 12 hours after surgery.
- Not eating or drinking 24 hours after surgery.
- There is significant swelling or bleeding at the incision site.
  - A firm, small swelling under the skin is generally a normal inflammatory response to surgery and will get smaller over several weeks.

***If you have questions or concerns or your pet is exhibiting symptoms of discomfort or lethargy 48 hours after surgery, please call our regular business line at (919) 270-9519***

## Females

- Your pet was spayed today.
  - This surgery is comparable to a hysterectomy in people.
  - She was under general anesthesia for her surgery.
- It takes 7-10 days to fully recover from this surgery.
  - Please keep your pet as calm as possible for the next 7 days.
  - No excessive activity or playing. Leash walks only for dogs.
  - You may need to keep her in a small room (bathroom) to limit activity.
  - If your pet is too active, there could be swelling and inflammation of her surgery site.
    - If there is swelling from excess activity, it should resolve over the next week.
- Her sutures are all internal and the skin was closed with surgical glue.
  - Do not bathe your pet or get her abdomen wet for the next 7 days.
  - You should not see any sutures.
  - There will be a small green tattoo above the incision line.
- If your pet was in heat today, she may continue to show signs for the next 1-2 weeks.
  - Keep your pet away from any unneutered males.
  - Your pet may still be receptive to mating.
  - If a male tries to mate with her, it could cause serious and life-threatening complications.
- If you purchased additional pain medications, start the medicine tomorrow (evening for cats; morning for dogs).
  - Do not give medicine on an empty stomach.
  - Do not give any other medication without consulting your veterinarian.

## Males

- Your pet was neutered today.
  - This surgery is similar to a vasectomy in people but the testicles were removed.
  - He was under general anesthesia for his surgery.
- It can take up to 7 days to fully recover from surgery.
  - Please keep your pet as calm as possible for the next 7 days.
  - No excessive activity or playing. Leash walks only for dogs.
  - You may need to keep him in a small room (bathroom) to limit activity.
  - If your pet is too active, there could be swelling, bleeding and inflammation at the surgery site.
  - Do not bathe or get your pet wet for the next 7 days.
- Male dogs have an incision above their scrotum.
  - His sutures are all internal and the skin was closed with surgical glue.
  - Male dogs have a small green tattoo next to their incision site.
- Please keep your male away from any sexually intact females.
  - Males can still be fertile for up to 6 weeks post-surgery.
  - If allowed around an in-heat female, your male could still breed with her.
- If you purchased additional pain medications, start the medicine tomorrow (evening for cats; morning for dogs).
  - Do not give medicine on an empty stomach.
  - Do not give any other medication without consulting your veterinarian.