

POST-OPERATIVE DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS



Your pet has had a major surgery and will need to be well cared for afterwards to help prevent complications. Following the instructions below will help ensure your pet has a safe and comfortable recovery.



LIMIT YOUR PET'S ACTIVITY

It is very important that you limit your pet's movements for the 7-10 day recovery period. Strenuous activity (such as running, jumping, or playing) could disrupt the healing process and cause the incision to become swollen or open.



CONTINUE FEEDING YOUR PET A REGULAR DIET

After surgery, your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours. Do not change your pet's diet at this time, and do not give them any "people food" (i.e. junk food, table scraps, or milk). Changes in your pet's diet could hide post-surgical complications. Water should always be available.



CHECK THE INCISION TWICE DAILY

Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. Licking may cause the incision to become infected or open. **All surgery patients receive a green tattoo in the first skin layer on the abdomen.** This is NOT an additional incision. This is a way to identify easily that your pet has been spayed or neutered.



KEEP THE INCISION DRY

Dogs and female cats have internal sutures that provide strength to the tissue as they heal; these will dissolve after approximately four months. Surgical glue has also been applied to the skin to seal the incision against bacterial penetration. Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period (10 days) or apply topical ointment to the incision site -- the surgical glue on the incision will dissolve too quickly if it becomes wet.



ELIZABETHAN COLLAR AND PAIN MEDICATION

Your pet was discharged today with an Elizabethan Collar or "e-collar." The e-collar should fit comfortably around your pet's neck and extend about 2 inches past the tip of the nose to prevent licking the incision. Please leave the e-collar on at all times during the 7-10 day recovery period.

Your pet was also discharged today with a pain medication prescription. Start this medication tomorrow and administer according to the prescription label instructions.



KEEP IN-HEAT FEMALES AWAY FROM MALES

Keep neutered males away from un-spayed females. Neutered males can get an un-spayed female pregnant for 30 days after their neuter surgery. Keep spayed females away from un-neutered males for 7 days. Animals returning from the clinic may also smell different to other animals in the household. This can cause the animals to fight, so be prepared to keep your pets in separate areas for a few days following surgery.



CALL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the 10 day recovery period, please call us at the following phone numbers:

- **(615) 512-5001:** During clinic hours (Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)
- **(615) 802-8387:** After hours and weekends until 11 PM (You may also text this line.)

Prior to seeking any post-surgical veterinary care for your pet, you must make contact with us. Pet Community Center will treat any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery at our clinic for minimal cost if the above post-operative instructions have been followed in full. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions or from contagious disease for which the animal was not previously vaccinated.