



CCAS Spay/Neuter Clinic

Surgery Recovery Instructions for Pet Cats and Dogs

Thank you for spaying/neutering your pets! Although it is a common procedure recommended for all animals, please remember that your pet has just gone through SURGERY and he/she needs proper care to recover, including a clean, warm and dry place to recover indoors.

Food And Water

- ◆ Your pet can be fed a very small meal (1-2 teaspoons canned food) following recovery from anesthesia after transport back to his or her home.
- ◆ Your pet may not have much of an appetite tonight or tomorrow, so don't worry if your pet doesn't eat the night of surgery.
- ◆ You can provide a small amount of water or a few ice cubes. If vomiting occurs, withhold the water until the day after surgery.
- ◆ On the day after surgery, resume your pet's normal feeding schedule.
- ◆ After 24 hours, your pet should be eating, urinating, and defecating.
- ◆ Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food during the recovery period as this could mask post-surgical complications.

Anesthesia

- ◆ Your pet may be drowsy for 24-48 hours from the anesthesia. Some animals may shiver, have an upset stomach, and vomit.
- ◆ Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, and continued diarrhea and/or vomiting are not normal and your pet should be taken to your regular veterinarian
- ◆ By morning, your pet should be about 75% back to normal.

Recooperation Environment

- ◆ The first night home, keep your pet in a small, confined area where he/she can be easily monitored.
- ◆ Keep your pet away from other animals to minimize strenuous activity.
- ◆ No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity for 7 to 10 days, as this can cause sutures to re-open.
- ◆ Dogs must be walked on a leash – no yard play or romping at dog parks.
- ◆ Pets must be kept indoors to minimize wound contamination and activity level. This can cause sutures to re-open as well as expose the wound to debris, dirt, and germs.

Protecting Against Infection

- ◆ Pets should be observed for excessive licking or chewing - especially in male dogs.
- ◆ Licking or chewing might lead to an infection or cause the incision to reopen.
- ◆ Prevent your pet from licking by distracting him/her with treats, toys, or petting.
- ◆ If licking or chewing persists, you should purchase an e-collar, a plastic cone that fits over the animal's head and is available at PETSMART and most veterinary clinics, to use until at least the 7th day post-surgery.
- ◆ For cats, we recommend that you remove the litter from the litter box and use shredded paper so that the litter and litter dust do not become imbedded in the incisions for the next 5-7 days. You can purchase dust-free post surgery litter at the pet store (ask them for this product) and use that in the litter box instead if your cat won't use the shredded paper.
- ◆ Do not bathe your pet for 7-10 days because the incisions must remain dry to avoid infection.

Managing Discomfort

- ◆ There is some minor discomfort after the surgery but no pain. Do NOT use any oral or topical medicine not prescribed by a doctor as it is dangerous to your pet
- ◆ You can put a cool compress on the site to ease the swelling.

Incision Monitoring

- ◆ Incisions should be monitored daily to be sure they remain clean, dry, and intact. They should also be monitored for drainage, redness, and swelling
- ◆ If an incision opens (gaping wound) or if it appears red, painful or has a thick discharge, call your veterinarian.
- ◆ Male dogs may experience a mild fluid build-up and swelling in the surgical area for a few days.
- ◆ Female animals may have some swelling under the incision due to the internal absorbable sutures.
- ◆ It's okay to feel a hard bump at the incision site. It's not okay if this bump gets much bigger or starts to leak pus or blood.

Suture Removal

- ◆ Your pet does not have to return for suture removal, however sutures must stay in for seven days, so be sure to limit your pet's activity and chance of reopening the wound
- ◆ Sutures are self-dissolvable (absorbable), but may take 2-4 months to fully dissolve.

Long Term Effects

- ◆ While spaying and neutering is very effective in reducing or eliminating some nuisance behaviors such as spraying and marking of territory, in some adult animals, these behaviors may have already been 'learned' and might not go away completely.
- ◆ It may take up to 30 days in some animals to see results in the reduction or elimination of these behaviors.
- ◆ The earlier you spay/neuter your pet the better chance you have of preventing or altering these actions.

Monitoring After Vaccinations

- ◆ If your pet received vaccinations such as Rabies or Distemper, monitor the site of the vaccination (the right hind leg), checking for: swelling/lumps at vaccination site, irregularity in fur growth, swelling of face, loss of appetite, vomiting, lethargy or depression, and difficulty breathing.

Post Surgical and Post-Vaccination Complications are rare, but proper monitoring and aftercare will help ensure your pet has a speedy, healthy recovery.

In emergency situations you should always contact your vet or an emergency animal facility.

In urgent situations you can call the shelter during normal business hours at 856-401-1300, or the emergency number at 609-330-4747.

For general questions, please feel free to contact CCAS at 856-401-1300 or camcoshelter@yahoo.com
And don't forget the most important aspect of after care for you patient – **lots of extra TLC!**



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