



## Post-Operative Home Care Instructions

On the following procedure was performed on your pet

- **Spay:** a spay (ovariohysterectomy) is the complete removal of the ovaries and uterus. This procedure will eliminate the risk of uterine infection and reduce the likelihood of mammary cancer and ovarian cancer.
- **Neuter:** a neuter is removal of a male's testicles. Neutering significantly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and various testicular diseases.

**It is important to follow these instructions for a successful and healthy recovery:**

- **Limit Activity:** Limit any running or jumping for the next 7-14 days.
- **Prevent Licking:** Licking often leads to chewing or removal of sutures, which can happen in a few seconds. Mild licking can result in an infection that requires antibiotic treatment. Persistent licking can cause serious injury to the incision and may require a costly surgery to repair the damage. Prevent licking by using an e-collar.
- **Dissolvable Sutures:** Sutures DO NOT need to be removed. If suture removal is needed it will be noted under additional instructions.
- **Suture Reaction:** A suture reaction can occur 2 to 4 weeks post operation. In most instances, the reaction will not cause a problem and will disappear once the sutures have been resorbed by the body. In rare cases, you may need to contact your veterinarian for additional instruction or treatment.
- **Keep Dry:** Do not bathe your pet for 14 days post operation. Avoid all water and/or muddy areas.
- **Monitor:** Check the incision daily for signs of redness, swelling, discharge or licking. Mild redness and swelling are part of the healing process and should be expected for the first 2 to 3 days after surgery. After this period, the swelling and redness should subside, and the incision should look better each day. Moderate swelling or prolonged discharge on or around the incision site is abnormal and may be an early sign of infection.
- **Scrotal Swelling(Neuters only):** Mature male dogs and cats may have post-operative scrotal swelling. This swelling may be unsightly, but it should not be long-lasting or life-threatening.
- **Feeding Instructions:** Many pets will not eat on the night they return home from surgery. Offer approximately half your pet's normal serving of food and water two hours after returning home. If your pet is less than 16 weeks of age, offer food and water as soon as you return home. Give a normal amount of food and water the day following surgery.

- **PAIN MANAGEMENT:**

All animals receive an injection for pain and inflammation after surgery that will last 24 hours.

- For dogs: We offer a 3-day supply of pain medication to take home. Begin giving the medication the morning after surgery, per the instructions on the label on the bottle. The medication is best given with some food.

- For cats: We offer a long-lasting pain injection as an alternative to oral pain medication. This injection will be given to your cat before you pick them up and will last up to 72 hours.
- **DO NOT** give your pet any over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen. **DO NOT** use any information you may find on the internet to dose and administer these medications to your pet yourself. Though some human medications are also used in animals, it is **VERY DANGEROUS** to give them to your pet after surgery and without the advisement of a veterinarian.

**If at any time your pet stops eating, drinking, vomits or becomes lethargic please contact your veterinarian.**

**If you are concerned that your pet is having problems related to their spay/neuter surgery:**

**Saturday - Sunday We do not have a veterinarian at our clinic on these days. Please see your regular veterinarian for any health concerns you may have for your pet**

**Monday - Friday Please call our clinic at (208)265- 7297, ext. 107. Our phones hours are from 9 am – 4 pm. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer, and we will make it a priority to return your call.**