

High Quality, High Volume Spay & Neuter Surgery Post-Operative Care Instructions

Your pet has undergone general anesthesia and surgical sterilization. For the safety and well-being of you and your animal, we recommend that the following post-operative instructions be carefully followed:

- I. Dogs and cats should be kept indoors after surgery. This will enable you to carefully monitor recovery and will minimize complications and stress during the recovery period.
- II. Sometimes lumps or swelling can develop under the incision, often a result of minor bleeding under the skin. These are not usually painful and will absorb over a few weeks. Email us with some photos if you observe this, and we will determine if your pet needs to be examined by a veterinarian.
- III. As when any anesthesia is used, stomach upset can occur. To avoid, offer a small amount of food and water this evening. They can have a normal amount of food tomorrow morning for breakfast.
- IV. Restrict your pet's activity for the next 7 days, and do not let the incision get wet (including bathing). Do not allow running, jumping, or rough housing. For dogs, crate if needed and leash walks only.
- V. If your pet received a surgical onesie (included with dogs, when requested for female cats only) it is highly recommended to keep it on your pet consistently for the next 7-10 days to protect the incision from licking and chewing. It only takes a few minutes for a pet to damage or open the incision, and any added medications or procedures to correct an opened incision are the financial responsibility of the owner.
- VI. You should check the incision at least twice daily until healed. A small amount of blood seepage can be normal immediately after surgery. Should you notice any continued drainage or swelling, contact us for follow up care.
- VII. If the incision should become dirty, gently clean the area with a clean washcloth and warm water. Do not use soap or soak the incision in water.
- VIII. The sutures used during surgery are dissolvable and should not require removal. Because male cat neuters do not require the use of sutures, we advise using shredded newspaper instead of litter in your cat's litter box for 3 days after surgery to prevent dust particles from irritating the incisions.
- IX. **DOGS:** Please give the prescribed pain medication as directed for the full 3 days (or longer, if directed). An anti-inflammatory is included. **Do not give any other previously prescribed or over-the-counter medication for pain relief, without checking with us first.**

CATS: A long acting (3 days) pain relief injection was given during the procedure, and no other medications should be needed. **Do not give any other previously prescribed or over-the-counter medication for pain relief, without checking with us first.**
- X. If you have any questions about your animal's condition after surgery, please call the clinic or send us an email. For life-threatening emergencies requiring immediate attention after hours, please call Blue Pearl at (727) 572-0132.
- XI. If we placed a microchip today (under anesthesia), it is located between your pet's shoulders under the skin. You will receive a letter or email in 1-2 weeks to confirm registration.
- XII. If your pet received vaccines that need to be boosted, please make an appointment with our general practice 3 weeks from today.