



## Surgery After Care Instructions

### SURGICAL PROCEDURE

- Your pet has had major surgery with general anesthesia, which means he/she was unconscious during the operation.
- In female dogs and cats, the uterus and ovaries are removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall.
- In male dogs and cats, the scrotum is not removed, only the testicles. Male dogs have an incision just above the scrotum. Male cats have two incisions, one on each side of the scrotum. Male cats may appear as if they still have testicles. This is normal- the swelling should subside gradually through the recovery period.

### TATTOO

- All female cats, female dogs and male dogs receive a small green tattoo on the incision site.

### SUTURES

- Unless told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures.
- Male cats do not have any sutures.
- All sutures are absorbable on the inside. The very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue.

### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR PET HOME

- We strongly recommend you keep your pet confined in a crate or a small room the night after surgery.
- Your pet may be groggy when you get home, experiencing a "hang-over" from the anesthesia. Your pet will typically require 18-24 hours to recover from the general anesthesia. Most animals will be back to normal when the anesthesia leaves their system entirely.
- Your pet may sleep much more than normal for 18-24 hours following surgery.
- Your pet may have poor balance. This will make climbing stairs or getting in and out of the car more difficult than usual, so be ready to assist. Help your dog in and out of the car as sudden movements can damage his or her stitches. Lift the dog by wrapping your arms around the dog's chest/front legs and rear/back legs.
- Make sure your cat has a comfortable spot to sleep in a confined, secure, quiet place. Once he or she is settled, they will likely sleep it off and will be fine upon awakening.

## INCISION SITE

- What you see on the day of surgery is considered normal. There should be no drainage. A very small amount of redness/swelling at the incision site may occur.
- Do not allow your pet to lick or chew the incision site. This could cause the wound to re-open and become infected. We recommend getting an e-collar if your pet does lick or chew at the incision site. The collar needs to be worn during the entire recovery period, which is 10-14 days.
- No baths for 10-14 days.
- Have your veterinarian check the incision site in 10-14 days.

## ACTIVITY

- The healing process takes 7-10 days.
- Please restrict your pet's activity for the next 7-10 days. No running, jumping, playing or other strenuous activity.
- Pets must be kept indoors during the recovery period. Where they can stay clean and dry.
- When outdoors dogs should be on a leash and only taken for short walks for the next 10 days.

## FEEDING FOLLOWING SURGERY

- Anesthesia tends to make animals experience nausea, so your pet may not want to eat when he/she gets home after surgery.
- Offer small amounts of food and water when your pet is fully awake. If vomiting occurs, take away the food until the following day. You may give your normal amount of food and water the day after surgery.
- Do not change your pet's diet during recovery. Do not give table scraps, milk or any other people food.
- This could mask post-surgical complications.
- Your pet's appetite should return to normal within 24 hours after surgery.

## POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

Spaying and neutering are very safe surgeries. However, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. If swelling persists or if you notice any of the following please contact your regular veterinarian right away.

- Pale gums
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating

## SOME EMERGENCY VETERINARIANS INCLUDE:

Alameda East Veterinary Hospital - 9770 E Alameda Ave.	303-309-8947
Animal Critical Care - 1597 Wadsworth Blvd.	303-239-1200
Central Veterinary Referral (VRCC) - 3550 S. Jason St.	303-874-7387
Northside Emergency - 945 W. 124th Ave.	303-252-7722