

# 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. Pets should be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. **CRATE CONFINED IF NEEDED**



## 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 but restrict water intake to small amounts when you first get home, especially if your pet drinks a lot of water at once.



## CHECK THE INCISION TWICE DAILY

There should not be any drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. Licking may cause the incision to become infected or open. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar **MUST** be used. 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. You can purchase one here at the clinic or at any veterinary clinic or a pet store such as PetSmart. **Some 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.



## PAIN MEDICATION

Pain medicine is also highly recommended as part of discharge for your pet. It will help control pain, swelling and inflammation. If your pet is discharged with pain medicine, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ice pack scrotum/incision for 5-10 minutes twice daily for 48 hours**

## 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/text us at the following phone numbers:

- **CALL ONLY (615) 890-6878:** During clinic hours (Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM) -
- **TEXT ONLY (731) 903-7129:** After hours and weekends until 9 PM

*THANK YOU FOR BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER!*