



POST-OPERATIVE/AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet has had major surgery. The surgery requires general anesthesia. For female dogs and cats, the uterus and ovaries have been removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall. Females are then unable to get pregnant. In male dogs and cats, the testicles are removed. Removal of the testicles prevents the production of sperm. Once any residual sperm has been expelled from the system (up to two weeks after surgery) the male cat or dog will no longer be able to father offspring. If your female cat or dog was in heat at the time of surgery, you must keep them away from un-neutered males for up to two weeks. While they are unable to become pregnant, they will still attract intact males for a short period of time.

Surgical Site

CHECK THE INCISION SITE DAILY. DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR CHEW AT THE INCISION.

Female dogs and cats have a midline incision in their abdomen. Male dogs have an incision just above the scrotum and male cats have two incisions, one on each side of the scrotum. What you see the day of surgery is what we consider normal. There should be no drainage and redness and swelling should be minimal.

If your pet licks, he/she can open the incision and cause infection, incurring additional veterinary costs. To avoid this, we strongly recommend you purchase and e-collar for \$10 or a surgical onesie for \$15-\$20 (onesies are only appropriate for female patients) which can be purchased and fitted at our clinic. The e-collar or onesie should be used for 10-14 days post-surgery. Do not clean or apply topical ointment to the incision site. If you are told your pet has skin sutures or staples, you will need to return in 10 to 14 days to have them removed.

Your pet has received pain medication. Do not medicate your pet for any reason (unless prescribed by a veterinarian) for 3 days following surgery to ensure there are no adverse interactions or reactions.

Activity

It is very important that you limit your pet's activity for the next 7-10 days. **No excessive running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity during the 7-10 day recovery period.** We advise that pets be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. DO NOT bathe your pet during the recovery period. Dogs should be leash walked only. Dogs and female cats have internal sutures that provide strength to the tissues as they heal. Any strenuous activity could disrupt this healing process.

Feeding

Your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Food and bathroom habits should return to normal within 24 to 48 hours after surgery. Lethargy lasting more than 48 hours after surgery, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and you should contact us immediately. Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, or milk for a period of one week. This could mask post-surgical complications.

Potential Complications

Please contact us immediately if you notice any of the following: pale gums, depression, or laboured breathing. If you have any questions or concerns following surgery during the recovery period, please call 519-966-1118 during business hours or 519-551-4833 for after-hours emergencies. Please note you may be directed to your own veterinarian or an emergency clinic for which any cost will be your responsibility. We will treat at our clinic during regular business hours, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery if the post-op instructions were followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illness or injuries not directly resulting from surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions or for contagious disease for which the animal was not previously vaccinated.

Our veterinarians recommend that you establish a wellness program for your pet with a regular, full-service veterinarian. WE ARE NOT A REGULAR, FULL-SERVICE CLINIC.