



Postoperative Care Instructions

Spay and Neuter Postoperative Care

The skin at the surgical site has been closed with sutures that are buried underneath the skin. These are dissolvable sutures and will not normally need to be removed. They will slowly dissolve over the next 30 days.

Observe the surgical site daily and inspect the skin for any signs of inflammation or infection. If the skin edges appear to be red and swollen or if there is excessive discharge coming from the wound, please call.

DO NOT ALLOW LICKING OR CHEWING for 7-14 days. If your pet is licking/chewing the incision site you will want to put a cone on them to keep them from doing so. We have cones in the clinic available for purchase. Licking/chewing the incision site can cause irritation, swelling, and premature suture removal. If your pet's incision site happens to open up they will need to come back and treatments and procedures for this are additional costs.

Activity level should be decreased for 7-14 days following procedure. No running, jumping or playing. Leash walks are recommended during this time for controlled activity. Catnip and laser pointers should also not be used during this recovery time.

The surgical site may be slightly sore, but should not be overly painful. If you note increasing pain, please contact your veterinarian

The skin incision should not be exposed to water for 7-10 days. Unless your veterinarian indicates otherwise, do not bathe the pet for the next 10 days.

Feed only a light meal(s) the day that your pet goes home. Anesthesia will often slow the movement of food, so light meals are preferred for the first day home. If your veterinarian has prescribed a specific diet, please follow those instructions.

If medications were dispensed for your pet, please give them according to the label directions.

Please notify the clinic if any of the following occur:

1. Loss of appetite for more than 48 hours, not drinking water for more than 24 hours
2. Severe lethargy or weakness
3. Cough persisting longer than 48-72 hours
4. Vomiting after 24 hours (anesthesia may cause nausea during the first 24 hours)
5. Diarrhea
6. Severe pain
7. Incisional draining, swelling or redness (mild swelling is common 1-3 days post surgery).