

## **Post-op Instructions**

Thank you for allowing us to care for your pet today. Please read these instructions carefully and use them as your guide to help you and your pet through the recovery period. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at 803.327.PETS (7387) or email us at [info@healthypetsspayneuter.com](mailto:info@healthypetsspayneuter.com) Your pet's full recovery is of utmost importance to us.

1. Your pet had a major surgery today which required general anesthesia. This may cause him/her to be tired or sleepy tonight. Your pet also may not act normal due to the after effects of the anesthesia. This should improve significantly each day and most animals are feeling much better 24 hours after the procedure. If you have a concern about how your pet is recovering after surgery, please contact us as soon as possible.
2. Incisions: Females have a small incision in the middle of their abdomens; male dogs have an incision just in front of their scrotums and male cats have two incisions, one on each scrotal sac. Every animal has a small green tattoo placed near the incision site to indicate that they have been spayed or neutered. Please check your pet's incision twice a day for changes. The incision should look about the same as it did on the day of discharge, although, a small amount of redness and swelling is normal during the healing process. Please watch for signs of infection which include: redness, discharge, foul odor, or significant swelling. If you notice any of these signs, please contact us IMMEDIATELY so we can instruct you on what to do. We do offer free rechecks on all of our surgeries.
3. Do not allow your pet to lick the incision as this may lead to infection. Licking will be more noticeable a few days after the procedure as this is when the incision is healing. If your pet is licking or chewing his or her incision, we highly recommend that you purchase an e-collar from us for \$10 to prevent this behavior.
4. All sutures are placed internally and will dissolve on their own, unless otherwise noted. You do not need to bring your animal back in for suture removal. If your pet received external sutures or staples, please make an appointment to have those removed in 7-10 days. There is no charge for this service.

5. It is extremely important that you restrict your pet's activity for 10-14 days or until their incision is completely healed. This includes no running, jumping, swimming, bathing, playing, or other strenuous activity. All pets must be kept indoors during this period. Dogs must be kept on a leash when outside (no off leash activities). Failure to keep your pet quiet during the recovery period may cause the incision to come open, bleed, or become swollen.
6. Females who were in heat at the time of surgery need to be kept away from males for AT LEAST 2 WEEKS to allow time to heal internally. If she is bred by a male during this time, she may experience severe or even life threatening complications.
7. If you have any questions or concerns about your pet's recovery, please contact us at 803.327.PETS (7387) or [info@healthypetsspayneuter.com](mailto:info@healthypetsspayneuter.com).