



POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet's care after surgery is important to your pet's health. Please follow these instructions to avoid serious injury.

Anesthesia interferes with an animal's ability to regulate body temperature. Tonight, keep your pet confined to a small area where it is warm and quiet. Do not put your pet on a bed or other high places to prevent falling off. Tonight, separate your pet from other animals and young children. During the 10 day recovery period, your pets should be recovering on clean bedding and surfaces. Wash all bedding in hot water with bleach on a regular basis to minimize the chance for infection.

Food & water: Tonight after 8 pm, cats should have a small amount of water dogs can have ice cubes. Only a quarter of their regular meal should be given to prevent over-eating. Remove food and water if vomiting occurs. Resume regular meal tomorrow morning.

Anesthesia may wear off slowly, so your pet may appear drowsy this evening, but he or she will become progressively more active and alert with time. Cats may sleep and wake up several times throughout the night and are often clumsy. Cats may hallucinate as anesthesia wears off and sounds, light, and touching may frighten them. They may growl or claw at invisible objects for up to 24 hours. Keep **cats confined in their carriers until 8 pm**, make sure that they are in a quiet place and avoid stress and stairs when possible. Some cats do best in quiet, dark places such as a bathroom (with the toilet lid down). **Dust free litter must be used** for 10 days after surgery. Keep cats indoors for 10 days after surgery.

Exercise: Restrict your pet's activity for 7 to 14 days after surgery. Do not allow running, jumping, or wrestling with other pets or children. Keep your pet in a clean, dry place for at least 4 to 5 days after surgery. Males remain fertile for 3 to 4 weeks after surgery, so keep them away from females. Do not leave your pet unattended outside for the next 5 to 7 days. **For the next 10 days all dogs should be walked on a leash.**

* **E-collars:** We highly recommend purchasing an E-Collar (\$6 or \$7 fee) which will prevent your pet from licking the incision area. Licking the incision can cause the surgical site to open and or cause an infection. Do not put anything on the incision. The clinic can repair damage done to the incision, but there will be a nominal charge. **E-collars stay on for 10 days!** We also have **Relief Spray** which soothes the shaved area and alleviates itchiness around the surgical site. **Included with price of spay/neuter surgery.*

* **Pain Medications:** We give every animal an injectable pain reliever which lasts 24 hours. Pet owners also have the option to purchase pain meds to take home. **Included with price of spay/neuter surgery.* **Do not give Tylenol, aspirin, or other pain relievers to your pet – these can be deadly to them!**

Baths: Do not allow your pet to get wet or have a bath for at least 10 days after surgery.

Stitches: Your pet has dissolvable sutures (male cats do not require sutures), so suture removal is not necessary. The incision line is concealed under a line of surgical glue to promote healing. It will take approximately 4 – 8 weeks for sutures to dissolve.

Surgery Area: Check your pet's incision daily for bleeding, discharge, swelling, redness, or opening of the wound. Some minor redness and swelling of the incision is expected and is not a problem. All animals also have a small green line next to their incision. This is a spay tattoo which serves as a lasting indication that your pet has been altered. In male dogs, our surgeons will choose from two approaches to remove the testicles depending on your dog's size, age and scrotal skin character: Prescrotal incisions are made just above the scrotum; scrotal incisions are made on the median raphe of the scrotum itself. Some veterinarians may not be familiar with the scrotal approach, as this technique is taught only in more selective veterinary schools (such as Cornell University, UC Davis, University of Florida, University of Mississippi and University of Pennsylvania). Scrotal incisions allow less tissue damage and less time under anesthesia, meaning a faster and less painful recovery for your pet. If your veterinarian has any questions about this approach, we are happy to provide educational information to them.

NOTE: Male dogs remain fertile for 4-6 weeks after surgery. Keep away from female dogs in heat for 4-6 weeks to prevent pregnancy.

In case of post-surgical concerns: For any concerns after surgery, please contact PFA directly and promptly. PFA has limited hours available for non-emergency rechecks at lower cost. Visits to your regular vet or emergency hospital are your financial responsibility. Please call us at (609) 208-3252 ext 201 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or Sat 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns relating to the surgery that was performed before coming into the Low cost Spay & Neuter clinic. Be prepared to give us details over the phone about your pet's condition. This is necessary so we can help you do what is best for your pet. The following symptoms are an emergency. **DO NOT WAIT** to seek treatment if People for Animals' clinic is closed. Go to your vet or an emergency vet clinic.

- Labored or difficult breathing
- Loss of appetite for more than 2 days
- Refusal to drink water for more than 1 day
- Severe depression or weakness
- Vomiting continuing beyond the first 24 hours
- Severe pain
- Bleeding

Please call (609) 208-3252 for future surgery appointments, to schedule a re-check appointment if necessary, or for patient record requests.

Vaccinations, microchips, and preventive care are now available at PFA two days a week. Monday 4:00 – 5:30 pm and Saturday 9:00am – 12:30pm. For future vaccinations please visit us during one of these times – no appointment necessary.

People for Animals advise clients to keep a copy of their pet's records on file for the future needs of their pet. Records are not available immediately upon request and clients are advised to allow 1-2 business days for record processing.

Thank you for spaying and neutering, your pet will be healthier and happier for it.