



Post-Surgical Instructions

Your pet has just undergone surgery and will experience some degree of discomfort. The following will help answer some of the most common questions that arise after these operations

Recovery:

Please monitor your cat (s) in the next 24 hours and not left unattended.

Keep them indoors and in a warm quiet area.

Please allow 10-14 days for your pet to fully recover before returning to regular activity!

- Some animals may stagger slightly upon release. Your pet has just had surgery, wanting to sleep throughout the evening is a normal reaction
- Recovering cats should be kept indoors in a small room while healing from surgery
- Your pet should be in a quiet area away from other pets/small children
- No running, jumping and playing. Allowing these activities can result in serious complications such as internal bleeding and breaking down of the incision. Animal must be carried on stairs, beds, couches, ect.
- Absolutely NO licking! Licking not only irritates the incision and interrupts the healing process, but it also transfers mouth bacteria to the incision that **will** result in an infection at the incision site. These infections can be severe requiring antibiotics, extended recovery time and possibly additional surgery at your cost.
- Animals should not be bathed until the incision is healed (2 weeks)

Feeding:

Do not feed or water your pet for at least 3 hours after returning home

- Give your pet a small amount of food tonight, about 1/2 their normal amount (certain anesthetics may upset your pet's stomach initially)
- Don't leave the water dish down over night in case your pet should get drowsy (24 hours after surgery)
- Exception: Kittens <4 months old should be fed a small amount of food when they get home

Incision site:

- Please check the incision for pain, heat, swelling or drainage at least once daily. Please call us if you see anything that is concerning.
- Animals will often attempt to lick the incision site because it has been shaved closely or irritation from sutures. Do NOT allow them to lick- if they do start to lick use Vick's Vapor Rub or Liquid Band-Aid around the incision to deter them from licking or come in to get an E-collar (\$5).
- A small, green tattoo has been placed next to the incision on female cats. Please do not try to scrub this off! It is a universal, permanent ID to show that they have been fixed.

Mature Male Cats

Male Cats: Just like a vasectomy in men, cats will have viable sperm in their tract for 30 days or longer. To avoid unwanted pregnancies, keep him away from any un-spayed females for at least 30 days.

A small amount of hemorrhage or swelling may occur. Occasionally a hard lump may appear at the site of incision as a result of blood pooling under the skin. If it gets noticeably larger, or bleeding is excessive or continues for more than 12 hours please notify your vet. We do not have a vet on call here, however we do have a vet on site during regular business hours throughout the work week. Please feel free to call with any questions.