

GENERAL CARE

Surgery day is a big day for your pet. It is important to let them recover in a calm, quiet environment over the next day or two. Continue to allow them to rest over the next 14 days so the incision can heal properly.

Please **do not** let them run, jump, or roughhouse during this time.

Use a leash or harness when you take your dog outside over the next 7-10 days.

No baths or swimming for 14 days – **the incision must stay dry!**

FEEDING

Kittens and Puppies (under 4 months)

Your pet was offered a small amount of food at the shelter after surgery. Please offer their regular food as soon as you get home. It is important to keep their blood sugar up.

Cats and Dogs (over 4 months)

Do not feed or offer water to your pets until at least two hours after you get home.

After two hours you can begin to offer small amounts of food, preferably a bland meal, if your pet does not vomit after, you can offer another small meal in an hour. If your pet does vomit, wait an hour or two and try again.

If vomiting persists, please contact your vet or after-hours emergency clinic.

INCISION CARE

Please prevent your pet from licking the incision, which could result in infection or an open incision. If they do start licking the area, please purchase an e-collar at your local pet store.

Please check your pet's incision when you get home and twice daily over the next 7-10 days.

Redness and swelling should be minimal and should get better each day.

For **female** animals, check for any excessive bleeding or drainage from the incision site.

In some cases, a firm nodule will form at incision site (seroma). This is normal and will resolve on its own in 3-4 weeks.

There are no external sutures to be removed, the skin is closed with tissue glue so it may feel firm and crusty. This will go away in time.

Every animal receives a bright green tattoo indicating they have been spayed/neutered.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER ANESTHESIA

While your pet is recovering from anesthesia you may notice some odd behaviors.

It's normal for them to be a little groggy in the first 24-48 hours after surgery.

They may also shiver, tremble, or be more sensitive to touch.

Soft stool can occur after anesthesia.

These side effects should wear off within 48 hours. Older pets may take a little longer to recover.

QUESTIONS, ISSUES, & EMERGENCIES

If you have any questions, please contact your regular veterinarian.

Potential emergencies include listlessness, pale gums, persistent bleeding, unusual bulging or draining from incision site. If your pet requires immediate attention please contact your nearest emergency clinic.

Any expenses incurred for your pet's care at a private veterinarian or emergency clinic are your responsibility.