



## Post Surgery Instructions for Dogs and Cats

### Please Read Carefully

Your pet has had major surgery. The surgery required general anesthesia where the animal is completely asleep and unable to feel or move. In female dogs and cats, the uterus and ovaries are removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall. In male dogs and cats, only the testicles are removed, not the entire scrotum.

Female dogs and cats will have a midline incision in their abdomen. Male dogs will have an incision just above the scrotum and male cats will have two incisions, one on each side of the scrotum.

- Your pet has a green tattoo by its' incision. Please do not try to remove it. (Excluding male cats)
- Some animals are active after surgery, while others are quiet. It is very important that you limit your pet's activity for the next 7-10 days. No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity during the 7-10 day recovery period.
- Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period. Dogs and female cats have internal sutures and surgical glue is applied to the outside skin to provide strength. Any strenuous activity could disrupt this healing tissue.
- Check your pet's gum color when you arrive home. The gum color should be pale pink to red. The gum color should return quickly after you apply pressure to the gums above the canine tooth. Check the gum color throughout the day.
- Check the incision site at least twice daily. What you see today is what we consider normal. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. If the incision gets dirty, clean gently with a cotton ball and water.
- Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, we recommend you buy and E-collar, which must be worn by your pet to prevent them from being able to reach the area. Please leave the E-collar on for a minimum of 5 days.
- Do not apply topical flea prevention for 7 days.
- Do not give Tylenol or aspirin for pain relief. These drugs can be deadly, especially in cats.
- If your female dog or cat was in heat at the time of surgery, you must keep them away from un-neutered males for at least two weeks. While they may be unable to become pregnant, they will still attract intact males for a short period of time.

- Male animals are virile for 3-4 weeks after surgery. Keep them confined so they cannot breed.
- When any anesthesia is used, stomach upset can occur. To help avoid this, we recommend you restrict the amount of food and water to which your pet has access upon returning home. Gradually increase the amount over the next 24 hours.
- Lethargy lasting longer than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea or vomiting are not normal and you should contact a veterinarian immediately. Do not change your pets' diet at this time, and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people food for a period of one week. This could potentially mask post-surgical complications.
- Spaying and neutering are very safe surgeries; however, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. If it persists longer, please contact Texas Humane Heroes. **Please contact your regular veterinarian immediately if you notice any of the following:**
  1. The incision site is open and/or blood is dripping from the incision
  2. If the incision appears infected, is swollen, or inflamed
  3. Excessive swelling of the scrotum on male dogs. Male cats may appear as if they still have testicles. This is normal; the swelling should gradually subside during the recovery period.
  4. Pale gums
  5. Depression
  6. Vomiting
  7. Diarrhea
  8. Difficulty urinating
  9. Labored breathing

Emergency Veterinary Clinics:

Northwest Austin Emergency Animal Hospital  
12034 Research Blvd. #8  
Austin, Texas  
(512)671-6252

Round Rock Emergency Pet Care of Round Rock  
301 Chisholm Trail  
Round Rock, Texas  
(512)961-5200