

ANIMALSAVE'S LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

POST-OPERATIVE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

It is critical that you follow these instructions to avoid serious and costly post-surgical complications. Do not schedule surgery if you are unable to comply with these instructions.

1. Keep your pet confined indoors in a quiet and warm place for the first 24 hours and monitor closely. Keep your pet away from other animals and children to prevent excessive activity. Make sure to protect your pet from excessive heat or cold. Feed light meals to avoid post-anesthetic nausea or vomiting.
2. Check the incision site twice a day. The wound should not change from the time of pick up, although small areas of bruising may occur. Some animals have an allergic reaction to the suture material and a small hard lump may develop. If it does not become red, inflamed or have fluid coming from it, it is likely an allergic reaction and should resolve in a couple of weeks. **Call us if you see swelling, discharge redness, or suspect excessive pain. Do not hesitate to call us.** It's better to call a false alarm than let a real problem grow. Green tattoo ink has been used in the incision line of female dogs and cats and male dogs to indicate that it has been altered. This will not harm your pet. If your pet has gone home with pain medication, please follow the instructions on the prescription.
3. **Do not allow your pet to lick, bite or rub the incision area.** Licking, biting and rubbing the incision site can lead to infection and opening of the incision. All dogs go home with a collar to prevent self-injury. Use it! Make sure your dog wears the collar whenever it is unsupervised. It takes only a few seconds for a dog to open the wound. Veterinary costs as a result of damage to the incision site is the owner's responsibility.
4. No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity should be allowed for 10 to 14 days after surgery, and no baths for at least 14 days. The sutures will dissolve. Washing the incision or applying ointment will interfere with that process. Pets must be housed in a clean, dry and warm environment until fully recovered. Dogs must be leash-walked for at least one week following surgery.
5. Offer food and water in small amounts the first 12 hours after surgery. Feed several small meals rather than one large meal to avoid vomiting. Kittens under 4 lbs. should be fed wet food within the first hour of returning home. Please do not change your pet's diet at this time or give people food, as this could mask post-surgical complications. Your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Depression, lack of appetite, persistent vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours may indicate a problem. Call us! Never give your pet anything from your medicine cabinet!
6. Female dogs and cats that have surgery while in heat are especially delicate and must be kept separated from males (both neutered and un-neutered) for 2 to 3 days after surgery. Some of these animals will continue to mate, potentially damaging their incision. Newly neutered males may remain marginally fertile and may breed for 3 to 4 weeks after surgery so please keep them confined.
7. If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery, please **call the Spay/Neuter Clinic voice mail center at (530) 559-8483**. Leave a message, we will return your call as quickly as possible.
8. AnimalSave strongly recommends that you establish a regular relationship with a full service veterinary hospital to meet your pet's ongoing health care and disease prevention needs.
9. **In case of emergency**, please contact your regular veterinarian or Loomis Basin Veterinary Hospital at (916)-652-5816 (Loomis Basin is open 24 hours a day). Also contact AnimalSave at **(530) 559-8483** so we are aware of the problem and can provide additional information to the clinic if needed. AnimalSave is not responsible for complications resulting from the pet owner's failure to follow post-op instructions or contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously vaccinated.

Thanks for not littering!

(Rev. January 2021)