

Post-Operative Care Instructions

1. Restrict your pet's activity for 7-10 days - No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity. Keep pets indoors where they can be clean, dry and warm. Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period. Dogs must be kept on a leash when walked outdoors. Females that are in heat should not be allowed around intact males for 14 days to prevent internal damage due to attempted breeding.
2. Check the incision site twice daily - There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar must be worn. You can purchase these collars at most pet stores or at our clinic. Please note: Female and pediatric patients have a water soluble tissue adhesive on the skin surface. This 'glue' will appear dry and crusty and has a bluish-green color. It will fall off as the incision heals.
3. Adult Male dogs have an open incision over their scrotum. The incision is closed below the skin but the open skin prevents swelling. Some oozing of bloody fluid over the next 2-3 days is considered normal. Active bleeding or large amounts of swelling are not normal. If concerned, please call the clinic for a free exam.
4. Stomach upset may occur - Offer small amounts of food for the first 24 hours. Your pet's appetite will gradually return during this time. Do not change your pet's diet. Do not give new food or people food during the recovery period. Reactions to this change can mask the symptoms of post-surgical complications.
5. Your pet will be sluggish - Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea or vomiting is NOT normal. Your pet should be taken to a full service veterinarian. Your pet may have a slight cough for 24 hrs. After surgery due to endotracheal tube placement during surgery.
6. We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination with a full-service veterinarian 7-10 days after surgery - Have the incision checked for complete healing and to discuss additional needs, follow-up care and vaccination boosters that your pet may need. A list of veterinarians who offer free post-op checks is available at the front desk.
7. If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call the clinic at 434-821-4922. If there is an emergency after hours, contact a full-service veterinarian or the:

Animal Emergency and Critical Care of Lynchburg
434-846-1504
3432 Odd Fellows Road, Lynchburg, VA

Note:

If all of the post-operative instructions are followed in full, the Lynchburg Humane Spay/Neuter/Vaccine Clinic will treat at minimal or no cost, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery. A full service veterinarian must address illness or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from undiagnosed pre-existing conditions, failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated. Our veterinarians recommend that you establish a wellness program for your pet with a full-service veterinarian.

ADDITIONAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAME-DAY RELEASE

Your pet has undergone anesthesia and surgery TODAY. He/she will be drowsy and somewhat uncoordinated this evening.

While your pet's activity needs to be kept restricted for a total of 7-10 days, your pet should be kept **strictly confined** to a small area for the first **12-24 hours after surgery**.

- Dogs should be placed in a crate or a small room, such as a bedroom or a bathroom, overnight.
- Cats should be kept in their crates for at least 2 hours following arrival back to your home, and then confined to a small area overnight.
- Feed a very small amount of food at 8 p.m. along with a small amount of water. Appetite should return within 24 hours.

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 us.

Contact us or your regular veterinarian immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Pale gums
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating
- Labored breathing

PAIN MEDICATION

Your pet has received 3 days of post-operative pain medication. ALL CATS have received an injection of long-acting pain control. Dog are going home with three days of oral pain medication. Please follow the instructions provided with their medication.