



## Post Operative Instructions

Your dog or cat has undergone general anesthesia and surgical sterilization. For the safety and well being of you and your animal, we recommend that the following postoperative instructions be carefully followed:

- Dogs and cats **MUST BE KEPT INDOORS** after surgery for at least 7 days. This will enable you to carefully monitor recovery and will prevent complications and possible death from exposure to outdoor temperature extremes. Ideally, you should keep them indoors permanently.
- As when any anesthesia is used, stomach upset can occur. To avoid, limit the amount of food and water your dog or cat has access to during the first 3 hours at home after surgery. You can provide one or two ice cubes to lick or chew during this time. Do not offer food to patients immediately upon returning home (you may offer a very small amount of food 3 hours after you return home). You can gradually increase the amount of food and water over the next 24 hours.
- Limit your animal's activity for the next 7 days. Do not allow running or jumping.
- You should check the incision at least twice daily until healed. A small amount of blood seepage is normal immediately after surgery. Should you notice any continued drainage or swelling, contact a veterinarian.
- If the incision should become dirty, gently clean the area with a cotton ball and hydrogen peroxide (do not use often – it can be irritating to the incision).
- You must not allow your dog or cat to get wet for at least 7 days after surgery. For this reason, do not bath your dog or cat for at least one week after surgery.
- **The sutures in the incision are dissolvable and should not require removal.**

External sutures may be removed at 7 days to reduce inflammation. Because male cat neuters do not require the use of sutures, we advise using shredded newspaper instead of litter in your cat's litter box for 7 days after surgery to prevent dust particles from irritating the incisions.

- **DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL TO DOGS AND CATS FOR PAIN RELIEF UNLESS SPECIFICALLY PRESCRIBED BY YOUR VETERINARIAN. TYLENOL IS TOXIC TO ANIMALS AND ASPIRIN CAN BE DEADLY IF ADMINISTERED AFTER SURGERY.**
- If you have any questions about your animal's condition after surgery, please call the clinic at 409-933-1600. **For emergencies requiring immediate attention, call our emergency number at 409-443-1108.** The medical team member on-call will answer. Our staff is on call for **surgical emergencies only.**
- For other questions about your animal's health, or for emergencies not related to surgery, contact your private veterinarian or the nearest Animal Emergency Clinic. Animal Emergency Clinics are listed in the Yellow Pages under "Veterinary & Animal Hospitals."