



Northwest Spay & Neuter Center After Surgery Care Instructions

- **NO STRENUOUS ACTIVITY:**
 - Your pet needs to take it easy for the next 10-14 days. Too much activity may cause the incision to open. Please make it your job to help them stay as calm and quiet as possible during the recovery period.
 - No running, jumping or playing. They may need to be in a separate room or crate. Toys should be put away.
 - Dogs may go for slow, leashed walks if they don't pull and can stay dry starting 48 hours after surgery.
- **CLEAN, WARM & DRY:**
 - The surgical area has been sealed with surgical glue which must stay dry. NO BATHS or water play for 10 days.
 - Cats must stay indoors for 10-14 days; dogs must stay indoors for 10-14 days except to go out outside ON A LEASH to use to bathroom.
 - Pets must be transported inside the cab of your car or truck and NEVER in the bed of a truck.
 - All pets will need to stay warmer than usual for 24 hours after surgery due to the anesthesia.
- **CHECK THE INCISION:**
 - Check the incision as soon as you get your pet home so you know what it should look like. Continue checking the incision twice each day to make sure it is healing properly.
 - Incisions may look "rippled" due to a layer of stitches underneath the skin. This is part of the normal healing process.
 - IF YOUR PET DEVELOPS A BUMP UNDER THEIR INCISION, it is likely because they have been too active and their body has formed a fluid pocket to help cushion the area. If there is no oozing from the incision, and your pet is eating, drinking and behaving normally, put even more effort into keeping them quiet and it should go away. If the bump is red or oozing or your pet is refusing to eat or drink, please call us at 253-627-7729 ext. 2 to go over your concerns.
- **NO LICKING:**
 - Licking will eventually open the skin where it has been glued together and force bacteria inside, causing an infection.
 - We recommend you purchase an E-collar and your pet should wear it at all times when you are not watching them. Put it over their head, small end first. It should go past the end of their nose and be tied tight enough so you can only get two fingers under the tie. Your pet will not like wearing the collar. If they struggle at first DO NOT PANIC and take it off. Give them a chance to adjust. You can use your pet's own collar or harness to help keep it on.
- **FOOD:**
 - Offer your pet a small meal of their usual food when you get them home. Your pet may not feel like eating the first day home because anesthesia causes nausea. Appetite and activity level should return to normal within 24-36 hours.
 - Do not change your pet's diet or give them a lot of treats or human food. Though it is tempting to spoil them after surgery, it is not good for them because it will likely cause stomach upset.
- **TATTOO:**
 - There is a small, green tattoo near the incision site on your pet to show they have been spayed or neutered. Some green ink may have spread around on your pet's skin while they were in recovery. This will wear off and the tattoo will heal very quickly.
- **PAIN MANAGEMENT:**
 - All animals receive an injection for pain and inflammation after surgery that will last 24 hours.
 - **For dogs:** We offer a 3-day supply of pain medication to take home. Begin giving the medication the morning after surgery, per the instructions on the label on the bottle. The medication is best given with some food.
 - **For cats:** We offer a long-lasting pain injection as an alternative to oral pain medication. This injection will be given to your cat before you pick them up and will last up to 72 hours.
 - DO NOT give your pet any over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen. DO NOT use any information you may find on the internet to dose and administer these medications to your pet yourself. Though some human medications are also used in animals, it is VERY DANGEROUS to give them to your pet after surgery and without the advisement of a veterinarian.
- **VACCINES:**
 - Pets receiving their first set of vaccinations should receive a booster vaccine in 3-4 weeks. This does not apply to rabies, which is good for one year. We cannot do booster vaccines at our clinic. Please see your regular veterinarian.

OTHER INFORMATION



Please keep this sheet until your pet is completely healed.

Spay: A complete ovariectomy is performed. This is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. An incision into the abdominal cavity is made located on the belly of your pet.

Neuter: The surgical removal of both testicles is performed. The scrotum/skin is NOT removed. An incision is made just in front of the scrotum, or for younger dogs, in the scrotum (there may be an abdominal or other skin incision for cryptorchid neuters).

If you are concerned that your pet is having problems related to their spay/neuter surgery:

Monday - Friday

Please call our clinic at 253-627-7729, ext. 2. Our phone hours are from 10 am – 4 pm. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer, and we will make it a priority to return your call. If necessary, our veterinarian will perform a re-check exam free of charge. (You will be charged a small fee for any medications prescribed.)

Please note:

- *Your pet does not need to return to our clinic if they are healing normally.*
- *We cannot see pets that have had surgery at our clinic for medical issues not directly related to their spay/neuter surgery.*
- *We cannot see any pets that have not had surgery at our clinic.*

Saturday - Sunday

We do not have a veterinarian at our clinic on these days. Please see your regular veterinarian for any health concerns you may have for your pet.

Thank you for trusting Northwest Spay and Neuter Center to care for your pet.