



Post Operative Instructions

Your pet had Spay or Neuter surgery on: _____.

- **If your pet had surgery today, keep the pet in a protected area overnight.** It can take pets 24 hours or longer to fully recover from anesthesia. Each pet is different. During recovery, the pet may not be able to protect itself from other animals or may wander into traffic. We recommend an enclosed area – either a room in your home or garage, or a kennel.
- **If your pet had surgery today, do not feed or give water until at least 1 hour after arriving at home and only if alert and interested in eating/drinking. At first give a small amount of food and/or water so that the pet doesn't eat/drink too quickly. Wait a while and if the pet does not vomit, you can give a little more food/water.** After being under anesthesia, animals may not want to eat right away. They may be nauseous. If vomiting occurs, do not feed any more until later this evening or even tomorrow morning.
- **Monitor the incision.**
 - Female dogs and cats have incisions on their bellies with stitches under the skin that will be absorbed. They do not have to be removed.
 - Male dogs have incisions near the scrotum with stitches under the skin that will be absorbed. They do not have to be removed.
 - Male puppies have no stitches. They have one incision on the scrotum.
 - Male cats have no stitches. They have two incisions on the scrotum.
 - Examine the surgery site once a day for 7-10 days. Please call if you notice any signs of infection such as redness, swelling or discharge. Also call if the pet is licking at the surgery site excessively.
- **Usually recovery from surgery is rapid.** Your pet should be nearly normal within 24-48 hours. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the humane society, at one of the numbers below, to speak with one of the staff veterinarians.
- **Restrict activity for the next 10 days.** Please do your best to prevent your dog or cat from running, jumping, or rough play for the next 10 days. Otherwise the incision is unlikely to heal without swelling or other complications. ***Do not get wet for 10 days.***