



Spay/Neuter Clinic
2646 Toomey Ave
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-333-4130

Your pet has just undergone major surgery. It is extremely important that you read and follow these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury or death of your animal.

1. **Your pet must be kept in a warm, dry place and as quiet as possible for 10 days following surgery.** Do not bathe your pet for 10 days following surgery. Dogs should be allowed outside for short, supervised, leash walks only. Cats should be kept inside for 10 days. Do not allow any running or jumping or allow the animal to exert itself. Prevent contact with other companion pets for the next 48 hours.
2. The surgical incision should be kept dry and clean. **Keep animals from licking or biting at the incision. If you see that your pet is licking or chewing at its incision, please do not assume that telling your pet to stop will help; it will not.** Use of an Elizabethan collar is the most effective way to prevent licking or chewing. The E-Collar must extend past the pet's nose and **MUST BE WORN 24 HOURS A DAY** until the incision is healed. This may be purchased at a pet store, your regular veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic. Please see the other side of this sheet for more information. **The most common post-surgical problems are caused by licking the incision, so use of an e-collar is the most effective way to prevent these problems for your pet.**
3. There may be small amounts of blood seepage from the incision for the first 24 -48 hours after surgery. Anything more than a small amount of seepage should be reported to the veterinarian at once. In about 10 days, a hard knot may develop at the incision site; this is normal.
4. Your animal has dissolving skin sutures so no suture removal will be necessary. Male cats do not have sutures in their incisions.
5. Your pet will experience pain at the incision site for approximately the next week. PLEASE talk to your regular veterinarian about safe and effective pain medication for your pet if you have not purchased it from us on the morning of surgery. DO NOT USE ANY OVER THE COUNTER PAIN MEDICINE unless instructed by your regular veterinarian. **Your animal was given a subcutaneous injection of pain medication prior to surgery.** If you have obtained pain medication from the Humane Society of Charlotte or your regular veterinarian, please start it when you arrive home with a small amount of food and water. Normal feeding may begin the day after surgery.
6. **If you did not obtain pain medication, your animal may be offered a small amount of food and water once you arrive home this evening.** Please be cautious not to over feed your animal or feed to fast as this can cause vomiting. Normal feeding may begin the day after surgery.
7. **Anesthesia can cause nausea and vomiting** in some animals, just as it can in some people. This is normal. If this occurs, please rest your pet's stomach until the morning after surgery by holding off food and water tonight. If vomiting is excessive or persists, please contact a veterinarian.
8. **For male cats** using litter boxes, shredded newspaper or dust free litter should be used in place of cat litter for 5 days following surgery to prevent infection of the incision site.
9. **Very Important: Please be sure to check the incision daily.** Please call your veterinarian if you notice the following signs of infection: swelling, tenderness, and/or discharge.
10. Pain medications often cause animals to feel very little or no pain and they often try to return to normal activity levels sooner than they should. Please continue to limit your pet's activity level for 10 days as indicated above even if they show no signs of pain.

If your pet has a problem specifically related to this surgery, please call the spay/neuter clinic during office hours (10am-5pm) or leave a message at 704-333-4130. All re-checks are accepted as walk-ins from 9am to 11am, Monday thru Friday if we can not be reached by phone first. In the event of an after hours emergency, please call your regular veterinarian and/or emergency clinic. Please be aware that if a problem arises that requires additional anesthesia that your pet will need to have been fasted for at least eight hours. The earlier you come in the morning, the easier it will be to see your animal and possibly treat a problem that day.