

## **DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Surgical Procedure**

Females received an ovariohysterectomy. Unless otherwise noted, there are no sutures to remove. If your female was pregnant or in heat, please keep your pet away from intact males for at least 2 weeks. Males received a castration. Unless otherwise noted, there are no sutures to remove. Male dogs and cats with scrotal castration may have one incision directly on the scrotum, which may be left partially or completely open. A small amount of drainage is normal. If your male was Cryptorchid (undescended testicle(s)), your pet has 2 incisions. If you were told that your pet had already been spayed or neutered, please contact the clinic if you notice signs of undescended testicles in males or signs of heat in females.

**These instructions** are very important. Recovery depends on what we do, what your pet does, and what you do during the period before, during and after surgery. If these instructions are unclear or do not seem to make sense to you PLEASE ask questions.

### **Home Care Instructions**

**-YOUR PET MUST REMAIN WARM AND INDOORS TONIGHT.**

-Offer your pet a small amount of food and water when you get home. Feed your pet a regular meal this evening. Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.

-Appetite should return within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, severe diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and your pet should return for a recheck or be taken to your regular Veterinarian. Dogs may have a slight cough for 1-2 days after surgery, or mild diarrhea not more than 24 hrs.

-Check the incision site twice daily. There should be little to no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not apply any type of ointment or bandage to the incision. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision.

-An Elizabethan collar **MUST** be applied to prevent it in dogs. Cats typically do not need Elizabethan collars, however if your cat begins to lick or chew the incision, you should put an E collar on him/her.

-If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call this office at (281) 528-1238 or walk in during regular business hours. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular Veterinarian or REACH an emergency hospital.

-Your pet received a black tattoo next to the incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin; IT IS NOT AN EXTRA INCISION.

### **Restriction in Activity**

We know how difficult it can be to restrict activity after surgery. Our recommendations are specific and should be followed as closely as possible. Some complications can many times be avoided completely just by preventing too much activity in the immediate postoperative period. No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity for 7 to 10 days. Keep your pet quiet. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats kept indoors.

### **Pain Management**

Female dogs and cats, male dogs and Cryptorchid male cats all receive medication for post-operative swelling and pain management. This medication is to be started **TOMORROW**. Please follow the instructions on the package the medication was dispensed.

### **Precautions That Should Be Observed After General Anesthesia**

-Your pet may be groggy for about 12 hours after anesthesia. Therefore, it is important to assist your pet when getting into or out of automobiles, and walking and climbing up or down steps. At home, confine your pet to prevent accidents.

-Pacing, disorientation, and vocalization may occur on recovery. These signs may persist for 6-8

hours or more.

-As the anesthetic agents wear off, your pet may experience slight discomfort. If your pet is in severe pain, contact us, your Veterinarian, or the emergency clinic immediately.

-It is best to restrict children from pets for 18 to 24 hours; your pet may experience residual anesthesia and possible post-operative pain.

-A sore throat or cough may be caused by the ET tube (tube placed down the wind-pipe for general anesthesia). This usually lasts no longer than 24 hours.

### **Rechecks**

Texas Litter Control does not charge any exam fees for rechecks. We will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-op instructions are followed in full. Your regular Veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, failure to purchase recommended medications, or for diseases for which the animal was not properly vaccinated.

### **Micro-Chip**

If your pet was micro-chipped today, remember to register your chip online at [Found.org](http://Found.org)