***Post-Surgical Instructions***

*Your pet has had major surgery and will need to be well cared-for afterwards to prevent complications. Following the instructions below will help your pet have a successful recovery.*

**Food and post op activity:**

Your pet will be groggy when you bring him/her home. He/She must be kept inside in a quiet, comfortable place. Offer a small amount of food and water when you arrive home. For adult pets, offer a small amount of food prior to giving the full meal this evening. Puppies, kittens and small breed dogs have a higher metabolism. It is very important they consume food post operatively. For puppies and kittens less than 4 months offer small amounts of food two more times before bed. If the patient does not want to eat, or if they vomit after eating, please help keep the patients’ blood sugar levels normal by applying small amounts of Karo syrup or pancake syrup to the gums 2 to 3 times throughout the evening. Appetite will return to normal in approximately 24 hours.

Keep the patient confined indoors for the next 7 to 14 days while the incision heals. Dogs should be walked on a leash while healing.

**No running, jumping, playing, swimming, bathing or strenuous activity for 2 weeks.**

**Incision care:**

1) Check the incision twice a day.

2) There should be no drainage.

3) Redness and swelling should be minimal.

4) The incision should remain closed with no gapping.

5) **DO NOT** **allow the pet to chew or lick the incision or tattoo site**.

6) Expect minimal swelling, or a hard lump, at the incision site. This is a normal reaction to the

 absorbable suture material. It will disappear in 2 weeks.

7) Keep the incision dry for 2 weeks post operatively. **NO BATHING**. **NO SWIMMING**! **DO NOT** use

 alcohol or peroxide to clean the incision.

8) In addition to subcutaneous sutures we also use a skin adhesive to keep the incision closed. It can be

 blue or green in color. **DO NOT TRY TO CLEAN THIS OFF**!

9) We mandatorily tattoo all spays and neuters as identifying proof of sterilization. The ink is a

 green/blue color**. DO NOT TRY TO CLEAN THIS OFF**!

10) To insure there is no post operative licking or chewing we highly recommend your pet wear an

 **Elizabethan collar** or a **Bite-Not collar** for at least 2 weeks.

**Medication:**

Your pet received medication for post-operative pain and swelling. DO NOT GIVE any medication other than what is prescribed to your pet by a licensed veterinarian!

**Change in behavior, you may observe:**

1) Slight but not persistent cough for approximately 2 days due to irritation caused by the intubation

 tube used for general anesthesia.

2) Less activity (which is good) due to slight pain created from the surgical incision.

3) Decreased appetite due to the short lived nausea caused by the gas anesthesia.

4) Constipation or diarrhea due to drug usage.

5) Difficulty urinating or defecating due to painful posture.

Spaying and neutering are both very safe surgeries, however as with all surgery, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days, but if they persist longer, please contact us. You should also contact us immediately if you notice any of the following:

* Pale gums
* Depression
* Vomiting
* Diarrhea
* Discharge or bleeding from the incision
* Difficulty urinating
* Difficulty breathing

Spay Today will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-operative instructions have been followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of the surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions, or from contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously vaccinated

We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination with your personal veterinarian 7 to 10 days after the surgery. Have the incision checked for proper healing and discuss additional needs such as follow-up health care and vaccinations. All pets should see a veterinarian once or twice annually for routine matters such as exams, diagnostics and vaccines. We recommend all dogs be on heartworm and flea/tick prevention monthly and year round. Remember some of the over the counter flea and tick products may be cheap and convenient but they can be very ineffective as well as be very harmful to your pet. We recommend you consult with a licensed veterinarian before using any over the counter products.

If you have questions or concerns directly related to your animal’s surgery, please call or email:

 **spaytoday1@gmail.com**

Spay Today office: 252-321-8839 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday Pet Emergency Clinic: 252-321-1521 Local after hours emergency clinic

Your pet underwent the following surgery today:

**\_\_\_\_\_ Spay** Ovariohysterectomy. No suture removal necessary. **\_\_\_\_\_** **Neuter** Castration. No suture removal necessary. **\_\_\_\_\_** **Already Neutered** Please contact this clinic if you notice signs of undescended testicles. **\_\_\_\_\_ Already Spayed** Please contact this clinic if you notice signs of heat. **\_\_\_\_\_** **In Heat** Please keep away from intact males for at least two weeks. **\_\_\_\_\_ Cryptorchid** Undescended testicle(s), your pet will have one incision/two incisions. **\_\_\_\_\_** **Umbilical hernia** Your pet will have one incision/two incisions. **\_\_\_\_\_** **Feral Cats** Should be kept inside overnight in a quiet place. Offer food/water. If trap anxiety is an issue they can be released this evening.

You may receive a satisfaction survey from Spay Today. We appreciate your feedback.