



Working with communities to provide accessible and affordable veterinary care.

POST-OPERATIVE INFORMATION FOR DOGS



Your dog has been desexed today. This procedure involves general anaesthesia and surgical removal of the reproductive organs (uterus and ovaries for females, and testicles for males). As dogs don't understand that they must rest after surgery, we will need you to assist with their recovery.

Your pet may still be drowsy from the anaesthetic medications. For the next 12-24 hours, keep them in a warm, quiet, safe place with food and fresh water. Please do not rough house or handle them too much, as the surgery site might be tender. For safety purposes, young children should only be allowed to pet them gently under adult supervision for the first few days.

One or both front legs may be shaved. This is where the intravenous (IV) catheter was placed to allow us to give medications and fluids (an IV drip). For females the hair on the belly will be shaved, and for males the hair around the scrotum will be shaved. This can result in mild skin irritation and should resolve within a few days. Do not apply any creams or bandages as this could cause even more irritation. Internal stitches have been placed and will be slowly absorbed by the body so your pet will not require stitch removal. A small amount of tissue glue will be covering the wound. A tattoo has been placed in the ear to show that your pet has been desexed.

Your pet was given an antibiotic injection that lasts approximately 48 hours. A pain relief injection has also been given today and we are sending you home with 3 further days of anti-inflammatory pain relief medication to keep them comfortable. **Please give this medication as instructed on the label.** Stop this medication and contact a veterinarian if your pet is not eating, or if vomiting or diarrhoea develops.

For the next 10 days, please follow these instructions carefully to avoid complications:

- We *strongly* recommend using an e-collar (cone of shame) to prevent your pet from licking or chewing at the incision site. You may purchase an e-collar from The Vet Project, a local veterinary clinic, or a pet store.
- Restrict your pet's activity. No running, jumping, or playing.
- Walk your pet outside on a lead to toilet. Do not allow them to run freely.
- No bathing or swimming.
- Keep them separate from other pets if there is a chance the other pet will lick the surgical site or encourage them to be active.

Complications after desexing are generally rare, but they can occur. If you have any concerns, please email us at info@thevetproject.com.au. We may not be able to respond immediately, so it is important that you promptly contact or visit a local veterinary clinic for any urgent issues. Please note that any such visits will be at your own expense. Some signs to look out for include:

- Lethargy, especially after the first 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Swelling, bruising, or excessive discharge from the surgical site
- Opening of the surgical site

Scan the QR code to find your nearest emergency clinic:



Thank you for choosing The Vet Project!