



Working with communities to provide accessible and affordable veterinary care.

## POST-OPERATIVE INFORMATION FOR CATS

Your cat 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 cats 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 room with a litter tray, food, and 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.

**FEMALES:** The hair on her belly has been shaved where the incision was made. 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 need to have stitches removed. A small amount of tissue glue will be covering the wound. One or both of her front legs may also be shaved. This is where an intravenous (IV) catheter is placed to allow us to give fluids (a drip) if needed.

**MALES:** The hair around his scrotum has been shaved. This is where the incisions were made. 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. This procedure does not require stitches. There may be a small amount of blood-tinged drainage from the surgical site for 1-2 days.

A tattoo has been placed in the ear to show that your pet has been desexed. A pain relief injection has been given and will last 2-3 days. This is generally sufficient; however if you feel that your cat is painful at any time, please contact a veterinarian right away. Your pet was also given an antibiotic injection that lasts approximately 48 hours.

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

- Restrict your pet's activity as much as possible. Ideally no running or jumping.
- Keep your pet inside.
- 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.
- If your pet is licking or chewing at their surgical site, use an e-collar (cone of shame). These can be purchased from The Vet Project, a local veterinary clinic, or a pet store.

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!**