



## **Post-Operative Care Instructions for Spay and Neuter**

### **The total recovery period is two weeks**

Your pet has just had a major surgery and will require some extra attention while recovering.

#### **Over the next 24-36 hours, your pet may still be drowsy from the anesthesia. During this time:**

- Do not leave your pet unattended with a water bowl
- Keep away from stairs, high furniture, or other hazards where they could fall and injure themselves

#### **During the full 2 week recovery period:**

- No licking or chewing at the incision site
- No running, jumping, climbing, or rough play
- No running up and down stairs (slow walking is fine)
- No bathing, grooming, or swimming
- Cats should be kept indoors
- E-collar(cone) should be worn AT ALL TIMES to prevent licking
- Dogs should be kept on leash for brief walks for urination and defecation only

#### **Once home, allow your pet to settle in for an hour or two before offering any food or water:**

- Offer a small meal, about half of what you would normally feed
- Provide water in small doses (you can also offer ice cubes)
- Do not leave unattended with a large bowl of water
- If your pet handles the meal well, you can offer another small meal a few hours later
- You may go back to the regular feeding schedule the next morning. It may take your pet a few days to get back to normal appetite

#### **Monitor the incision site daily and contact us if you notice any of the following:**

- Excessive redness      - Excessive swelling      - Oozing or bleeding

#### **If you notice any of the following, please contact us immediately or seek emergency veterinary care:**

- Excessive lethargy      - Lack of appetite/thirst (after 24- 36 hours)
- Inability to urinate/ defecate (after 24-48 hours)

#### **Unless otherwise instructed, your pet does not need to return for suture removal:**

- The sutures are internal and will dissolve on their own over the next few months
- There is a green tattoo applied near the surgical site to mark that your pet has been sterilized.
- Surgical skin glue is covering the incision site, make sure your pet does not lick or chew at this area
- Male cats do not have internal sutures or glue. The incision will heal on its own.

#### **Rabbits (In addition to the above instructions)**

- Feed a normal amount of food and water upon arriving home. Offer a variety of foods.
- Change your pets bedding every 1-2 days for two weeks post-surgery

If you have a question or concerns that cannot wait until normal business hours you may contact us at **301-850-4292** and we will get back to you as soon as we can. If it is an emergency go to an emergency clinic!