

prevent a litter

P.A.L.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Canine Discharge Instructions **Feeding** Limit your dog's **food and water** tonight. Half of what you normally feed them is a good place to start. You may offer small amounts of water and food throughout the evening. Anesthesia causes nausea, so they may have no appetite or they may vomit- both are normal. Do not attempt to feed until your dog is completely awake. S/he should be able to resume normal feeding in the morning.

Exercise/Activity The effects of anesthesia can last up to 24 hours. It affects your dog's ability to **regulate their own body temperature** and may **affect temperament**. Your pet may be tired or more quiet than usual for a day or two following surgery. It is important that you keep them warm and quiet, preferably indoors this evening in a controlled environment. Of course, we recommend that all dogs live indoors and not be allowed to roam. Allowing your dog to roam exposes him or her to grave danger such as diseases, parasites, accidental injury or death,

attacks from other animals, poison, and theft. Dogs left outdoors alone in a yard are also subject to many of the same dangers, including loneliness! Dogs are very social “pack” animals, and your family is his pack.

Limit their activity and keep them as still as possible until all effects of the anesthesia have worn off. We recommend keeping them away from stairs, children, and other animals unless under your direct supervision. Limit activity to leash walking only for the next **5 days - no running**, no jumping, and no roughhousing. Your dog should be able to move freely about your home but you may need to crate them if they are running and jumping. This is especially important for large male dogs, which are prone to swelling at the incision site if activity is introduced too early. Until their incision is completely healed, please keep their activity as limited as possible and re-introduce activity slowly.

Incision Site Your dog will have either a shaved tummy or a shaved lower abdomen and scrotal sack. **The sutures are absorbable** so you do not need to return for suture removal. Please keep an eye on the incision site, checking it once or twice a day. Inspect

the incision site the day of surgery so you can note any changes. Some redness and swelling is normal.

The incision site must **stay dry for the next 10 days - ABSOLUTELY NO LICKING OR CHEWING AT THE INCISION SITE!** If your dog starts to lick, they will need an e-collar. We have them here for \$10 or you can pick them up at a pet store. Additionally, no **swimming or bathing for two weeks**. No bandages or antibiotics are necessary. The incision should be healed in 5 - 14 days depending on size and whether your dog is male or female. A small percentage of dogs develop a fluid pocket, or bubble, at or near the incision site. This is just the tissue reacting to the sutures; the fluid may drain

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and the pocket will dissipate within a matter of time. Should the incision need cleaning, please do so *gently* and be sure to *dry thoroughly*.

→**Male dogs** You may notice some bruising (often crimson or fuchsia in color) or minor swelling of the scrotal sac. This is normal and to be expected. The swelling will slowly recede over a couple of weeks.

Female dogs She will have a permanent tattoo close on or near her incision site, do not confuse this small green line for infection.

Medications

Your pet was given an injection today to help with the pain. They will be going home with additional pain medication. This can be started tonight if your pet seems uncomfortable. Please follow all instructions on the label.

THANK YOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET!!!

*Call to report any significant symptoms, for example, unusual **redness**, **swelling**, discharge, bleeding, or if your dog has not returned to **normal eating and activity within 24 hours**.

We offer rechecks **free of charge**.

Please note that our facility has limited hours. In case of an emergency during our regular business hours, call **804-359-6369 and press "5". If an emergency occurs when the hospital is not open, and your animal must be seen immediately, please contact your nearest emergency hospital.*

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