

Post-operative Instructions

- Give your animal access to water as soon as you get home.
- The recovery period for males is 3-4 days; 7-10 days for females. During this time, keep animal quiet and inside where they are clean, dry and warm. Do not give your animal a bath while they recover. Walk your dog on a leash/keep your cat inside and do not allow running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity during recovery.
- Most animals have internal sutures that will dissolve over time. When you pick up your animal, we will notify you if your animal has skin sutures to remove after the recovery period.
- We use surgical-grade super glue to close the incision for all routine dog spays, dog neuters and cat spays. Cat neuter incisions are small and do not require closure with super glue or sutures.
- Check the incision site when you get home. As it heals, check it twice daily to make sure the incision is healing well. Female dogs and cats should have no drainage; redness and swelling should be minimal. Male cats may have a small amount of drainage for up to three days.
- Do not allow animal to lick or chew on the incision site. You **MUST** use the Elizabethan collar on dogs to prevent licking and chewing that could cause infection.
- We tattoo all females near the incision site to indicate your animal is spayed.
- Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Do not change animal's diet or give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people food during the recovery period. Feeding their regular diet will help avoid gastrointestinal upset. Provide clean, fresh water at all times.
- Your animal may experience lethargy for up to 24 hours after surgery. This is normal. Diarrhea, vomiting or lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op is **NOT** normal. Please contact your regular veterinarian if your animal exhibits any of these symptoms.
- Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery from intubation (insertion of an endotracheal tube in the wind-pipe to deliver general anesthesia). If cough persists beyond a few days, please contact your regular veterinarian. **NOTE:** Cats are not intubated.
- We recommend a post-operative exam with your regular veterinarian 7 to 10 days after surgery to have the incision checked for complete healing and to discuss additional needs and follow-up care. If your animal needs emergency care after hours or needs a recheck, contact your regular veterinarian or one of the local veterinarians or emergency clinics listed on the reverse side of this form. Do **NOT** call the clinic in an emergency until after you have contacted your regular vet.
- If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call this office at (240) 362-7547.
- Keep feral cats in their traps overnight in a warm, dry location. The next day, you can release them in the location where they were trapped as long as they appear fully recovered from anesthesia and you see no concerns.

Local Veterinarians

North Branch Animal Hospital

13701 McMullen Hwy SW
Cumberland, MD 21502
(240) 979-4761
northbranchanimal.com

La Vale Veterinary Hospital
913 National Hwy
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 729-6084

Western Maryland Animal Hospital
11024 Old Mt Savage Rd NW
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 722-5881

Hillside Animal Hospital
17100 National Hwy
Eckhart Mines, MD 21528
(301) 689-2782

Wiley Ford Animal Clinic
12 Maple Ave
Wiley Ford, WV 26767
(304) 738-9117

Mountainview Veterinary Services
90 Southern Drive
Keyser, WV 26726
(304) 788-6602

Emergency Veterinary Clinics

Mountain View Animal Emergency
18501-A Maugans Ave
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(301) 733-7339

Cheat Lake Animal Hospital
286 Fairchance Road
Morgantown, WV 26508
304-594-1124