



POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give your pet immediate access to water as soon as you get home. Your cat needs immediate access to a clean litter box; your dog needs a leashed walk immediately.
2. 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.
3. Most animals have internal sutures that will dissolve over time. If your animal has skin sutures that will not dissolve and require removal after the recovery period, we will let you know when you pick up your animal.
4. We use surgical-grade super glue to close the incision for all routine dog spays/neuters, routine cat spays and non-routine cat neuters. Routine cat neuter incisions are small and do not require closure with super glue or sutures.
5. 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 dogs and cats may have a small amount of drainage for up to three days.
6. 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.
7. We tattoo all females near the incision site to indicate your animal is spayed.
8. 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.
9. Your animal may experience diarrhea, vomiting and/or 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 beyond the initial 24-hour post-op period.
10. 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. They receive anesthesia using a different delivery method.
11. Your pet has received pain medication. Cats are injected with a pain medication that should last about 72 hours; there is no need for you to give your cat anything more for pain. Dogs go home with pain medication that you'll need to give by mouth over the course of 72 hours. You'll see dosing instructions on the medication container label. Start your dog's pain medication on the evening of his/her surgery.

12. 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 or needs a recheck, contact your regular veterinarian or a local veterinarian who offers emergency services listed below. Do NOT call the clinic in an emergency until after you have contacted your regular vet.
13. If there are any questions or concerns **directly** related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call this office at (240) 362-7547.
14. 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 Dr
Keyser, WV 26726
(304) 788-6602

Hi Rock Animal Hospital

23842 McMullen Hwy
Rawlings, MD 21557
(301) 786-4659

★ Designates veterinarian who offers emergency services.