



AFTER CARE SPAYING/NEUTERING-HOW TO HELP YOUR DOG RECOVER.

AT HOME

- We strongly recommend you keep your dog in a crate or small room the night after surgery.
- Your dog will be groggy when you get home, from the anaesthesia. Your dog will likely require 18-24 hours to recover from general anaesthesia.
- Your dog may sleep more in the first 18-24 hours.
- Your dog may be agitated or aggressive due to after effects of anaesthesia. Avoid handling your dog too much as they may try and bite.
- Isolate your dog from the children and other pets. They may be prone to snapping, due to the effects of an anaesthesia.
- Your dog may have poor balance. This will make climbing the stairs or getting in the car more difficult, so will need help as sudden movements can damage stitches. Lift the dog by wrapping your arms round the dog's chest/front legs and back legs.

INCISION SITE

- What you see on the day of surgery is what we consider normal. There should be no drainage. A very small amount of redness/swelling at incision may occur.
- If your dog allows, check the incision site once daily for one week. Check for excessive redness, swelling, discharge, blood or if incision is open.

SUTURES

- Unless you are told otherwise, your dog does not have external sutures.
- All sutures are absorbable on the inside. The very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue.
- If you are told your dog has skin sutures or staples they will need them removed in 7-10 days.

FEEDING

- Anaesthesia can make your dog feel nauseated so may not want to eat or drink when they get home.
- Re-introduce food slowly. Offer small amount of food as soon as they are fully awake. If vomiting occurs wait until the next day to give more food. Provide your normal amount of food and water to your pet the day after surgery.
- Do not change your dogs diet at this time, do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any people food for one week, as this could mask any complications.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO LICK OR BITE THE INCISION

Licking or biting the incision could cause the wound to open and become infected. To prevent this you should get collar fitted.

ACTIVITY

- The healing process takes 7-10 days
- Any strenuous activity could disrupt the healing process.
- Some dogs are active after surgery, others are quiet. It is very important that you limit your pet's activity during the healing process.
- Your dog must be kept inside where they can stay clean, dry and warm.
- No running, jumping, swimming or other strenuous activity during the recovery period.
- Do not bathe your dog or have them groomed during the recovery period.
- When outdoors dogs should be kept on a lead and taken for short walks only for the next 10 days.

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

- Spaying and Neutering are very safe; however, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within a few days. Please contact your vet if redness and swelling persists or if you notice any of the following:

- Pale gums
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours