

AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPAYING OR NEUTERING

Pet Vet, Inc. &/or Animal Birth Control, Inc. &/or
Tracy W Land, DVM &/or Monica K Voci, DVM &/or Courtney H Paulis, DVM
4630 Martin Road - Cumming GA, 30041
770-887-1565

- Keep your pet in a warm, dry, quiet place, away from other pets and small children for at least 48 hours.
- Your pet may or may not want to eat and drink the first night following surgery. Offer food and water, and let your pet decide.
- Lack of appetite, vomiting, and feeling sluggish is normal after surgery and anesthesia. However, if any of these symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, please call for instructions.
- Discourage your pet from running, jumping, and rough play for five days.
- Check your pet's incision daily. A little lump or redness is normal. However, if there is bleeding, discharge, or gaping, please call for instructions.
- Your pet's internal sutures are either stainless steel or dissolving, and the skin surface is closed with sterile tissue glue, so there is no need to return for suture removal.
- Absolutely no swimming, baths, or playing in water or mud is allowed for seven days.
- Some *dogs* will have a cough following surgery. Their throat is irritated from having a tube placed to help them breathe during anesthesia. This is normal and will pass on its own. Over the counter cough suppressants can be given if the cough becomes bothersome. Please call for dosage instructions before giving any medications. ***Remember! Never give a cat any over the counter medication, as they can cause serious health problems, and even death!***
- Because the incision in male cats is left open to drain, the sand in his litter box should be replaced with torn strips of newspaper for four days following surgery to prevent the possibility of infection.
- Hormones in mature male dogs and cats will remain in their system for two to three weeks following neutering, so behavior changes will be gradual.
- Female dogs spayed while in heat or pregnant may continue to have vaginal discharge for up to two weeks following surgery. This means that if your pet was in heat, she may continue to attract males for two to three weeks following surgery. Do **not** allow breeding, as this could tear internal sutures and cause serious internal bleeding and even death. ***Owners are responsible for any charges for additional surgery to repair any damages caused by breeding following surgery.***
- Male dogs **cannot** be allowed to breed for six weeks following surgery.
- Although most pets are not bothered by their incision, a few want to lick or chew at their incision. Do **not** allow your pet to lick or chew at their incision. Applying hot sauce or bitter tasting products *around* the incision often helps. If your pet insists on licking or chewing, an Elizabethan (*lampshade*) collar is needed. Bitter tasting products and Elizabethan collars are available here at reasonable prices, or are available at most pet supply warehouses. ***Owners are responsible for any charges for additional surgery to repair any damages caused by licking or chewing open their incision following surgery.***
- Mature male dogs have the highest incidence of minor post-operative complications following neutering, such as:
 - Licking & chewing - About 20% of neutered males will insist on licking and/or chewing at the incision as noted above.
 - Swelling & bruising - Almost half of mature males will swell and bruise to some extent, a few pretty badly. This is to be expected, and though it may look awful, it is not life threatening. It will resolve over the next few days.
 - Intra-scrotal bleeding - About 10% of neutered males will ooze some blood and serum from the capillaries inside the scrotum. In some individuals, the scrotum may look even larger than before the testicles were removed. While quite remarkable looking, it is not life threatening, and will resolve in three to ten days. Pressure from the fluid causes the capillaries to clot, and the body will re-absorb the fluid. Do not worry that they are hemorrhaging from the major arteries that supplied the testicles. Those arteries are securely tied off, twice, with stainless steel suture.
 - Hot compresses – If your dog swells, bruises, or seems painful, applying warm compress to the area will help reduce pain and swelling, and speed healing. You can wet down a washcloth or dishtowel with very warm (*almost hot*) water. Wring it out, and hold it against the area for five to ten minutes. This should be done two to four times a day, as needed.

NOTES:

- Many patients are unlikely to have a scar and **will** marked with a green tattoo along the incision. This prevents future attempts to repeat surgery should the patient ever be lost. The small green line is nothing to worry about.
 - We are more than happy to re-check our surgery patients. Call ahead and we will work you into our schedule as soon as possible. There is no charge for the exam, only for medications that may be required.
 - We will not be responsible for the costs of treatment or exams at any other clinic, including any and all complications.
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Check Out Monday – Friday is 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

A late fee of \$25.00 will be charged for each pet not picked up by 6:00 pm to cover staff overtime. Sorry, no exceptions!

Check Out for pets that have boarded or been hospitalized over night is 7:30 am – 11:00 am

An additional day of board or hospitalization will be added for each pet checked out after 11:00 am. Sorry, no exceptions!

INFORMED CONSENT & DISCLOSURE FOR SPAYING OR NEUTERING

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- Any anesthetic and surgical procedure carries inherent risks of complications. While rare, (less than one in a thousand), serious complications including but not limited to: infection, bleeding, allergic reaction, cardiac arrest, and death – do sometimes occur. Additionally, pets sometimes damage their incisions due to licking, chewing, and/or over activity. I accept this risk, and understand that I am responsible for the costs of treating any complications.
 - The risk of serious complications can be minimized, (but not eliminated), by having pre-anesthetic screening tests done to detect some, (but not all), unknown underlying medical conditions. Pre-anesthetic bloodwork can be done here for an additional \$58 charge. Chest X-Rays and EKG's can be done at nearby larger hospitals for approximately \$150 to \$250. Please advise the nurse if you would like to discuss or arrange for pre-anesthetic testing.
 - The risk of complications can be further minimized, (but not eliminated), by certain services that we cannot provide within our fee structure. These services include, but are not limited to: complete physical examinations, placement of IV catheters, IV fluid administration, blood pressure monitoring, and/or constant EKG monitoring. Most veterinary hospitals do not provide these additional services. Those that do will typically charge a *minimum* of an additional \$100 to \$200 to cover the costs involved. If you wish to explore the availability and costs of such additional services, we understand your concerns and will be happy to cancel your appointment.
 - It is assumed that patients presented for surgery are in good health. Time constraints do not allow us to perform complete physical examinations on all patients prior to surgery.
 - I certify that this pet(s) has current vaccinations and *does not* have heartworms (*dogs*) or feline leukemia (*cats*); or if not, I accept the increased risk of complications resulting from failure to vaccinate and test. Be aware that it may take up to two weeks for vaccinations to protect your pet. Heartworm tests (\$20), Leukemia test (\$30) are available upon request.
 - I certify that this adult pet(s) has not eaten any solid food since midnight last night, or if not, I accept the increased risk of complications that can arise from aspiration while under anesthesia.
 - Pregnancy, being in heat, excessive milk, obesity, previous c-sections, or retained testicles may complicate surgery, extend recovery, require additional after care, and additional charges may apply. *Charges are determined by the doctor during surgery and are based on additional time and supplies required.
 - Additional charges for cats that are obese, pregnant, having a false pregnancy, having had a previous c-section, or have milk engorged breasts can be up to, but not exceeding \$35.00.
 - Additional charges for dogs that are obese, in heat, pregnant, having a false pregnancy, having had a previous c-section, or have milk engorged breasts can be up to, but not exceeding \$45.00.
 - Additional charges for retained testicles in dogs or cats can be up to, but not exceeding \$125.00 for each testicle.
 - Pregnant animals will be spayed, which will terminate the pregnancy.
 - I understand that I *cannot* allow my female pet to nurse kittens/puppies following surgery.
 - I understand that I *cannot* allow my female pet in heat to be bred following surgery.
 - I understand that I *cannot* allow my male pet to breed following surgery.
 - If a pet has already been spayed or neutered, a charge of \$25 for dogs and \$20 for cats will apply to cover the cost of anesthesia, nursing care, and boarding for the day (additional charges will apply for boarding overnight).
 - If a pet is infested with fleas and/or ticks he/she will be treated in order to prevent other pets in the clinic from becoming infested, at a charge not to exceed \$18.19.
 - If my pet requires antibiotics due to excessive milk or any underlying infection, I will be responsible for the charges.
 - If I ask for *any additional* surgical procedure, physical exam, medical treatment, testing, vaccinations, medications, etc. I will be responsible for the charges.
 - Our doctors will not allow cats to leave this clinic following surgery unless he/she is in some type of a cat carrier, no exceptions.
 - If our doctors feels that my pet requires pain medication following surgery, it will be supplied at no charge; however, if I insist on pain medication contrary to the doctor's opinion, I will be responsible for the charges.
 - If my pet rips, tears, licks, or chews open his/her incision following surgery, I will be responsible for all charges resulting from additional surgery, hospitalization, medications, etc. *Elizabethan (*lampshade*) collars are available here or at any pet supply warehouse.
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- I understand that state law requires rabies and if I do not provide a current rabies certificate at check-in, my pet will be vaccinated at my expense.
 - Payment in full is due at discharge, no exceptions.
 - Late charges will apply if I am not on time to pick up my pet, no exceptions.
 - I am the owner or agent for the owner of this pet. I am 18 or older.

I have read and understand this authorization and consent. I consent to and authorize the spaying or neutering of this pet. I hereby release Pet Vet, Inc. &/or Animal Birth Control, Inc. &/or their staff, employees, owners, directors, officers, volunteers from any and all claims arising out of or connected with the performance of this operation or procedure.

PET(S) NAME(S)

OWNER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

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