

Post-Operative Instructions: Spay/neuter

Food and water: After your pet has returned home, wait an hour or two before offering small portions of his/her normal food and water. Do not be alarmed if vomiting occurs; occasionally anesthesia will cause this. Normal feeding should resume the following day.

Eliminations: It is normal for a pet not to have a bowel movement or to have loose stools for 24-36 hours after surgery.

Exercise and activity: Strenuous exercise should be avoided for seven to ten days. Please try to prevent any running or jumping to allow your pet's incision site to heal.

Medications: Pain medication is sent home with your pet; please give it as advised.

Sutures:

-If your pet was spayed (female), the incision will need to be rechecked and sutures may need to be removed in seven days. Please call for an appointment so the doctor can recheck the incision.

-If your dog was neutered (male), we will need to recheck the incision in seven days. Please call for an appointment so the doctor can recheck the incision.

-If your cat was neutered (male), there are no sutures involved with this procedure, but your cat should be rechecked in seven days.

Behavior:

-If your dog was in heat during the time of spaying, please protect her from male dogs after surgery. She may still have an "in-heat" aroma and the male dogs may want to breed her. Spayed animals are unable to come into heat (estrus) again.

-Neutering stops testosterone production in the body. Testosterone may be responsible for behavior problems, such as spraying or aggression. Behavior modifications can take up to four to six weeks.

Notify the hospital if the following occurs for more than one day:

- loss of appetite and/or thirst
- extreme weakness or depression
- excessive vomiting and/or diarrhea
- infection of the surgical site (redness, pain, severe swelling, pus or drainage)