Spay/Neuter Veterinary Clinic of the Sandhills

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1. **No running, jumping, playing, swimming**, or other strenuous activity for 7-10 days. Keep your pet quiet. Pets must be kept **indoors** where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and **cats kept indoors**.

2. Your pet should be kept away from other animals to keep your pet from being too active and to keep the other animal from irritating the incision. **If your animal has puppies or kittens they MUST be kept away from your pet for 2 weeks, even if already weaned.** Puppies and kittens will attempt to nurse even after weaning and will often chew at the incision site.

3. **Check the incision site twice daily**. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. **Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision**. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar **MUST** be applied. Elizabethan collars can be purchased at SNVC or from your regular veterinarian.

4. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and an appointment should be made with your regular veterinarian if these symptoms occur. Dogs may have a slight cough for several days after surgery, however if this continues for more than 3 days or is severe an appointment should be scheduled with your regular veterinarian.

5. Do not change your pet's diet during their 7-10 day recovery period and do not give your pet human food such as desserts, milk, or table scraps. These foods can cause vomiting and diarrhea, and may mask post-surgical complications.

6. If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery, please call this office at **(910)692-3499**. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular emergency veterinarian or call **(910)986-0389** for a phone consultation and recommendations for care.

If ALL Post-Op instructions are followed in FULL, SNVC will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment **as soon as you see cause for concern**. Complications can worsen quickly if they are not addressed immediately. **We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.**

For safe flea control, our veterinarians recommend *Frontline* or *Advantage*. Over-the-counter flea and tick treatments and collars are ineffective and may be harmful to your pet.

Please establish a wellness program for your pet with your regular veterinarian or with one of the many local full-service veterinarians posted on our information board.