

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, pet stores 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 and press 3**. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular emergency veterinarian or call **(910)692-3499 and press 3** to leave a message 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. We do not cover cost of care if your pet is taken to another clinic for follow up.

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.