



**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PET  
BETWEEN 4PM AND 5PM**

**DOG**

## **Spay/Neuter Home Care Information**

Congratulations on spaying or neutering your dog! You have increased your pet's chances for a longer, healthier life. We strongly recommend that you establish a regular wellness and vaccination program for your dog with a full-service veterinary clinic or animal hospital.

Post-operative care is simple but important in helping your pet with recovery.

- 🐾 If you have chosen to purchase **pain medication or mild sedatives** to reduce your pet's activity after surgery, please give as directed on the package. You should start pain medication the morning after surgery. If your pet was prescribed the mild sedative, this can be given beginning the morning after surgery.
- 🐾 Your pet may be **unsteady and sleepy** tonight, this is normal. **Do not leave your pet unattended** as reflexes may be altered by the effects of the anesthesia. Monitor closely when using stairs or resting on furniture.
- 🐾 Although your pet may not eat, **offer water and a small meal this evening**. Their appetite should return by tomorrow, but if he/she is not eating normally within 48 hours after surgery, please contact us.
- 🐾 A small amount of **vomiting and/or diarrhea is possible after anesthesia**. In the unlikely event that vomiting/diarrhea is severe or bloody, if your pet is unresponsive or cannot find a comfortable place to rest contact your family veterinarian or nearest animal emergency clinic as these are serious issues but rarely related to the surgery.
- 🐾 **Keep the incision dry** (no bathing or swimming) and restrict exercise for 10-14 days to allow the incision to start healing. All outdoor time for the next 10-14 days (walks, potty time) should be short and on leash, gradually working back into your normal routine.
- 🐾 **Look at the incision every day** for at least 10 days. A little redness is normal, but if you notice severe swelling, green/yellow discharge from the incision or more than a few drops of bright red blood, please call us for a follow-up appointment.
- 🐾 A permanent **green tattoo** has been applied near your pet's incision to indicate that he or she has been altered.
- 🐾 **Do not allow your pet to lick the incision**, as this may cause the incision to open or become infected. If your pet is likely to lick his or her incision, please use an e-collar for 10-14 days. E-collars can be purchased at SpayToday or a local pet supply store. **The collar should extend at least 2 inches beyond your pet's nose, tight enough to prevent your pet from pulling it off but loose enough to allow normal breathing and swallowing.**
- 🐾 **Female dogs only:** Dissolvable stitches are under the skin and do not need to be removed. As the body begins to heal, a firm, painless swelling may develop around the incision. This can be normal. However, if the swelling comes and goes when you put gentle pressure on the area it could be an incisional hernia---if you see this, please call us for a follow-up appointment to evaluate this.
- 🐾 **Male dogs only:** Males are neutered through an incision on or near the skin of the scrotum. The incision may have been closed with suture and/or medical adhesive. If the incision should come open, it is not an emergency, but please keep the area clean and dry, use an e-collar to prevent licking and call us for a follow-up appointment.
- 🐾 The most frequent complication of neutering is pooling of blood in the scrotum (hematoma) and it is most common when the dog is too active after surgery. If you think your dog may have developed a scrotal hematoma, keep him calm and use an e-collar to prevent him from licking. Then please call us for a follow-up appointment.
- 🐾 **IMPORTANT**-males may be fertile for 2 to 3 weeks after surgery. Please monitor contact with females during this time.

**ALL PETS SHOULD BE CLOSELY OBSERVED FOR THE FIRST 12 to 24 HOURS FOLLOWING SURGERY**

- 🐾 **SpayToday is open from 7 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesday-Saturday.** If you are concerned about your pet, please call during business hours at 303-984-7729, leave a voicemail or email [medicalteam@spay2day.org](mailto:medicalteam@spay2day.org). If your pet needs to be seen for a follow up appointment, please call the front desk to schedule this. There is no charge for a follow-up exam within 14 days of surgery, however there may be a small fee for any additional medications dispensed.
- 🐾 *If we are not open and you feel the problem is life-threatening, call your family veterinarian or the nearest animal emergency clinic. Please note that the cost of care given outside the SpayToday clinic will not be refunded.*