

## **GENERAL POST SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS**

The general recuperation period for your pet will be about two weeks. During this time it is important for you to follow these instructions:

Keep your pet inside and restrict activity for 2 weeks. Dogs should be walked on a leash when outside. No running, jumping, playing or strenuous physical activity.

Do not let your pet get the incision wet! Absolutely no licking, bathing or swimming for the 2 weeks after surgery. **DO NOT LET YOUR PET LICK THEIR INCISION !** Consider using an E-Collar, a “onesie” or Yuck (a bad tasting liquid applied to the skin around the incision), especially when your pet is not being supervised by you. Be sure to discuss this with our staff when you bring your animal in the day of surgery.

Check your pet’s incision twice a day for two weeks so that you can monitor the way their incision is healing. We don’t expect it to get red, swollen or have a discharge, so if you notice that, please call us that day so that we can help you evaluate the situation. It is very likely that your pet is being too active or is licking their incision. Occasionally pets can have an allergic reaction to the internal sutures and notifying us right away can help head off a developing problem.

Offer your pet a small amount of their regular food when they arrive home after surgery. If they tolerate it, then they can be given their pain medication with their meal. If they don’t want to eat,, hold off on the pain medication because without food it may irritate their stomachs. **Don’t give them their pain medication if they aren’t eating.** You can also offer them boiled chicken with rice, plain cooked ground turkey or even a plain scrambled egg. If they aren’t hungry, don’t fret, make sure they have access to plenty of water and try again in the morning. Not eating is usually not a problem, at least for a day or two, but not taking fluids is important and should be monitored.

### **CALL THE CLINIC (804-694-0349), IF YOU SEE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Severe swelling, redness or any drainage from the surgical site  
Refusal to drink water for 24 hours or refusal to eat for more than 48 hours  
Vomiting or diarrhea  
Severe weakness or depression  
Pain, inability to stand and/or loss of balance

If there are any concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call this office at (804) 694-0349. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular veterinarian or your local emergency veterinary clinic.

NOTE: The Animal Resource Foundation’s Spay/Neuter Clinic will treat at our clinic, at minimal or no cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery, IF the above post-op instructions are followed in full. 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. 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.