



Post-Surgical Instructions

Your ability and willingness to keep your pet INDOORS and CONFINED to a small area is perhaps the most important aspect of post-surgical care. Failure to do this can lead to serious injury to your pet. Post-surgical injury can incur large veterinary bills. You are responsible for any follow-up bills.

- Your pet has had anesthesia which may cause stomach upset. Food and water should be restricted to very small amounts at least until the following day. If your pet goes home the day AFTER surgery, feeding may resume normally unless otherwise instructed.
- Cats that go home the same day of surgery should be kept in their individual carriers overnight. Male cats can resume normal activity the next day. Females should be kept confined where they cannot jump and climb for at least 7 days.
- Dogs that go home the same day of surgery must be kept indoors, and be supervised outside for potty breaks. Children and other pets should not be allowed to pester your pet. Lingering effects of anesthesia can cause your pet to react abnormally.
- Your pet must be kept confined in a clean, warm, dry environment, away from other pets and children. This is important for dogs that normally live outside as well.
- Restrict any running, jumping, or rough play. Keep the incision clean and dry. (No baths, no swimming, no playing in mud puddles, etc.)
- Check the incision site in the morning, and again at night until healed. You may see some seepage, redness, or swelling the first day or two. If there is persistent bleeding, discharge, or if the wound opens please call the clinic, or if after hours, the Emergency Clinic as stated on the phone message.
- Do not allow your pet to lick the incision. If you have this problem, let us know and we can either get an E-collar for you, or some bitter spray.
- Preventing incision damage by your pet is preferred, but should the unexpected happen please call the clinic as soon as you notice.
- Give only pain medicines dispensed by your veterinarian....not Tylenol or Aspirin!
- Males remain fertile at least 4 weeks after neutering. Females that are spayed while in heat may bleed for about 10 days after surgery, or may have a bloody discharge for a few days due to hormonal changes. **Do not allow your pet to mate after being spayed or neutered – this can be life threatening.**
- Please call the clinic if you have any questions regarding your pet's surgery or condition.

Emergency numbers to have on hand for after clinic hours:

Palmetto Regional Emergency Hospital for Animals

921 Spears Creek Ct.
Elgin, SC 29045
803.865.1418

Lexington Veterinary Emergency Care

109 Palmetto Park Blvd.
Lexington, SC 29072
803.359.3199

South Carolina Veterinary Emergency Care

3924 Fernandina Rd.
Columbia, SC 29210
803.798.3837

After Hours Animal Clinic

1216 S. Guignard Dr.
Sumter SC 29150
803.774.4474