



# Seattle Humane

## Post-Operative Surgery Instructions

### [Post-Op Instructional Video](#)

#### Spay/Neuter Operation

- The neuter operation for males involves surgical removal of both testicles.
- The spay operation for females involves surgical removal of both ovaries and the uterus.

#### Post-Op Instructions

##### Food & Water

- Wait at least 2 hours after returning home to give your pet food or water. Remember, anesthesia can make pets nauseous. Animals should be offered ½ their normal meal the evening of surgery. Resume normal feeding the following day and it may take a few days for your pet's appetite to return to normal.
- It is not uncommon for your pet to have a bout of loose stool or to vomit from the stress of surgery, but if it persists please call and let us know or contact your local veterinarian or emergency clinic.

##### Activity

###### Cats:

- Should be confined to a clean, small, warm, and dry area indoors.
- Limit your cat's activity level for the next 10-14 days.
- Do not allow the cat to go outdoors at all for at least 5 days after you pick them up from the clinic.
- Do not allow your cat to be unattended around stairs the night after surgery or the following day. He or she may still be groggy and a little uncoordinated.

###### Dogs:

- Should be confined to a clean, small, warm, and dry area indoors.
- Limit your dog's activity level for the next 10-14 days (i.e. no running, jumping, etc.).



- Leash walk only and try to hinder anything that will stretch the incision site.
- Do not allow your dog to be unattended around stairs the night after surgery or the following day. He or she may still be groggy and a little uncoordinated.

### **Sutures:**

#### **Cats:**

- **Females:** Female cats do get sutures, but you will not see them as they are internal. They will dissolve so you do not need to have them removed. You do need to check the incision site (on the belly) daily for the next 5 days to make sure the area is healing and not oozing, swelling or opening. It is common for them to get a small, non-painful lump at the site of the incision.
- **Males:** Male cats do not get sutures but you do need to check the incision area (under the tail) daily for the next 5 days to make sure the area is healing and not oozing or opening. The scrotum may still “look full” for a few weeks but should not be hard, red or painful.

#### **Dogs:**

- **Females:** Unless otherwise stated, all dogs have internal sutures that will dissolve. Check the incision twice a day for the next 10-20 days to make certain it is healing and not oozing or swelling. Some bruising is normal.
- **Males:** Unless otherwise stated, all dogs have internal sutures that will dissolve. Check the incision twice a day for the next 10-20 days to make certain it is healing and not oozing or swelling. Some bruising is normal. The scrotum may still “look full” for a few weeks but should not be hard, red or painful.

### **Baths**

Do not bathe your pet for the next 10-14 days. Also, do not allow your pet to swim or take long outings in the rain and keep your pets indoors and dry.

### **Pain Medication**

- **Cats:** Do not receive take home medication but they do receive a pain management injection post-surgery.
- **Dogs:** Your dog will be sent home with oral pain medication (carprofen). They will get enough for 5 days and they should start the recommended dosage the morning following surgery. Please make sure you are following the instructions on the bottle to administer their medication appropriately. **\*\*Dogs are known to shuffle their food around to avoid any medication in their bowl. It is recommended that you wrap pills in cheese, peanut butter, or stuff them in a hot dog.**
- **Puppies/Small Dogs:** Will be sent home with a liquid pain medication for 5 days. ***\*\*If you think your pet seems painful in the days after surgery (whining, hiding, decreased appetite), please call us for assistance.***

### **E-Collars**



- Animals may lick their incision site to soothe the discomfort. It is recommended that you purchase an e-collar/cone and keep it on them for 10-14 days. It is very important that the e-collar is left on the dog while they are unattended (when you are away from home and overnight).

*\*\*If you notice your pet licking their incision and you don't have an e-collar, please purchase one and place it on pet asap. Damage to incision can lead to serious consequences including infection and incisional failure.*

### **Tattoos**

Your pet will be surgically marked with a green tattoo near the incision as visual proof that your pet has been spayed or neutered. For male cats, this is a small surgical mark on the abdomen.

***If you have any questions or concerns, please call the following number or email:  
(425) 649-7560 or [vets@seattlehumane.org](mailto:vets@seattlehumane.org)***