

[Post-Op Instructional Video](#) – Please review this video for a brief overview of Post-Op care

Spay/Neuter Operation

- The neuter operation for males involves surgical removal of both testicles, rendering the pet incapable of producing offspring. The scrotum is not removed.
- The spay operation for females involves surgical removal of both ovaries and the uterus, rendering the pet incapable of producing offspring.

Post-Op Instructions

Food:

- Offer your pet a small meal of their usual food when you get them home. Your pet may not feel like eating the first day home because anesthesia can cause nausea. Appetite and activity level should return to normal within 24-36 hours. Animals should be offered ½ their normal meal the evening of surgery. Resume normal feeding the following day. It may take a few days for your pet's appetite to return to normal.
- Do not change your pet's diet, give them lots of treats, or human food. Though this is tempting after surgery, it can lead to an upset stomach.
- It is not uncommon for your pet to have a bout of loose stool, mild stomach upset or vomit from the stress of surgery. If it persists, please call us 425-649-7560 or contact your family veterinarian. If your pet seems lethargic or the vomit/diarrhea is profuse or repeated, please contact an [emergency clinic](#).

No Strenuous Activity

- Your pet needs to take it easy for the next 10-14 days. Too much activity may cause the incision to open or become swollen. Please help them remain as calm and quiet as possible during their recovery.
- Cats should remain indoors for 10-14 days following surgery.
- Dogs should remain indoors for 10-14 days following surgery except to go outside ON A LEASH to use the bathroom.
- No running, jumping or playing. Toys should be put away.
- Consider confining to a crate or separate room.
- Dogs may go for short, slow, leashed walks if they can refrain from pulling and remain dry.
- Do not allow your pet to be unattended around stairs the night after surgery or the following day. They may still be groggy and a little uncoordinated.

Incision and Sutures

- Check the Incision
 - Check the incision as soon as you get your pet home so you know what it should look like. Continue checking the incision twice each day to make sure it is healing properly
 - Incisions may look "rippled" due to a layer of stitches underneath the skin. This is part of the normal healing process.
 - A small amount of bruising or bleeding can be normal following surgery.
 - If your pet develops a lump under the incision, it may be because they have been too active and their body has formed a fluid pocket to help cushion the area. If there is no oozing from the

incision, and your pet is eating, drinking and behaving normally, put even more effort into keeping them quiet and it should go away.

- If the bump is red or oozing, if there's continued bleeding, if your pet is refusing to eat or drink or seems lethargic, please call us 425-649-7560 or contact your family veterinarian. If your pet seems lethargic or the vomit/diarrhea is profuse or repeated, please contact an [emergency clinic](#).
- Sutures
 - Female cats and both male and female dogs get sutures, but you will not see them as they are internal. They will dissolve so you do not need to have them removed. This process can take weeks even months to completely dissolve and it is not uncommon to see small marble sized bumps under the skin come and go as they break down. The surgical area has been sealed with surgical glue which must stay dry.
 - Male Cats: 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.
 - Male Dogs: Unless otherwise stated, all dogs have internal sutures that will dissolve (a common exception is small male puppies who may not have internal sutures). Some bruising is normal. The scrotum may still "look full" for a few weeks but should not be hard, red or painful.
- E-Collars
 - Following surgery, some animals may lick their incision. Licking will eventually open the skin where it has been glued and can force bacteria inside, leading to an infection.
 - We recommend that you put an e-collar/cone on your pet and keep it on them for 10-14 days, whenever they are unattended.
 - Put cone on over their head, small end first. It should go past the end of their nose and be tied tight enough so you can only get two fingers under the tie. Your pet will not like wearing the collar. If they struggle at first DO NOT PANIC and take it off. Give them a chance to adjust. You can use your pet's own collar or harness to help keep it on.
- Tattoos
 - There is a small, green tattoo near the surgical site as visual proof that your pet has been spayed or neutered (for male cats, this is located on the abdomen).
 - The tattoo is sealed with a small amount of skin glue.
 - Some green ink may have spread around on your pet's skin or fur while they were in recovery. This will wear off and the tattoo should heal very quickly.
- Baths
 - The surgical area has been sealed with surgical glue which must stay dry.
 - Do not bathe your pet for the next 10-14 days.
 - Do not allow your pet to swim or take long outings in the rain and keep your pets indoors and dry.

Pain Medication



Seattle Humane Spay Neuter Clinic

Post-Operative Information

Vets@seattlehumane.org 425-649-7560 13212 SE Eastgate Way Bellevue, WA 98005

DO NOT give your pet any over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen. DO NOT use any information you may find on the internet to dose and administer these medications to your pet yourself. Though some human medications are also used in animals, it is VERY DANGEROUS to give them to your pet after surgery and without the advisement of a veterinarian.

- 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. 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.*

Vaccines

- Pets receiving their first set of vaccines (DHPP or FVRCP) at the time of surgery should receive a booster vaccine in 3-4 weeks. This does not apply to Rabies vaccine, which is good for one year.
- We can offer booster vaccines through our Wellness Clinic. Click [here](#) for more info or to schedule.
- Click [here](#) to see common side effects and more serious side effects of receiving a vaccine.

Post-Op Exams/Visits

- If your pet needs to be seen back after their surgery, there is a visit cost of \$25.00 in addition to charges for any medications sent home on that visit. You may also see your own vet for follow-up appointments.

Our reception team operates Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you have concerns about your pet following surgery, please send us an email describing your concerns, along with pictures if appropriate, to vets@seattlehumane.org You may also call us at 425-649-7560 and leave a detailed message.

If you have urgent concerns outside of our operation times, or are unable to get hold of us, please contact your family veterinarian or an [emergency clinic](#).