

Spay/Neuter Postoperative Care Instructions

Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)

General Information

Your pet has just undergone surgery to remove her reproductive tract (the ovaries and uterus). Although this is a very common procedure, it is considered major surgery, and she will require some special attention over the next few days.

All animals receive pain medications before and after surgery. Due to the effects of the anesthetic, your pet might be sleepy for 24-48 hours and might not have a bowel movement for 2-3 days. Most animals return to “normal” within approximately 3 days.

Important Points To Remember

1. Keep your pet in a warm, quiet environment for the next 24 hours. She might be disoriented, so keep her indoors all night tonight.
2. When you bring your pet home, limit food and water to small amounts at a time. Normal diet may resume the next morning.
3. No bathing or swimming for 14 days after surgery.
4. Restrict her exercise for 10-14 days (no jumping, running, playing, or romping; leash walk dogs when outside).
5. Observe the incision daily for 10-14 days, looking for unusual swelling or discharge. Sutures buried under the skin do not need to be removed. If your pet licks at the surgery site excessively, an e-collar will need to be purchased to prevent her from damaging the incision.
6. Please call the clinic if you notice vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite in the next 48 hours or if you have questions or concerns directed related to the surgery.
7. If your pet received a vaccine at our clinic other than rabies, a “booster” vaccine might be needed in 3-4 weeks.
8. We will make every reasonable effort to treat at OUR CLINIC, at minimal cost, any postoperative complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above postoperative instructions are followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery.

Homeward Bound Pets Spay Neuter Clinic
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