

## Barbara Grice Memorial Spay and Neuter Clinic

### Caring For Your Cat or Dog After Surgery

Thank you for spaying or neutering your pet. While spay and neuter surgery is a safe and routine surgery, it is very important that you keep a close watch on your pet for two weeks after surgery for any potential complications. Get in the routine of checking your pet's surgical site at least twice per day to ensure the site is clean and healing well. **Please remember that your pet has just gone through surgery and needs appropriate care to properly recover, including a clean and dry place indoors to rest and recover.** If you have any questions or concerns, please call the clinic at (850) 898-3380.

### What to expect when you get home

Your pet may be groggy when you get home and sleep more than normal for approximately 24 hours after surgery. He or She may also be agitated due to the after effects of anesthesia. We strongly recommend that you keep your pet separated from other animals and confined in a crate (if crate trained) or small room the night after surgery.

### Post-Surgery Instructions

To ensure your pet's successful recovery, make sure to carefully follow these rules:

1. **Give your pet free access to water once you return home.** It is important to keep your pet hydrated after surgery.
2. **Approximately 2 hours after pick-up, please make sure to feed your pet about half of what they would normally eat.** Anesthesia can cause upset stomach, so some animals may not eat for 24 hours post – surgery. Do not change your pet's diet or give table scraps during this time as this could mask post-surgery complications.
3. **Check your pet's incision site several times daily until it has fully healed.** A small amount of redness and/or swelling is normal, but females should have no discharge at their incision site.
4. **Males have a scrotal neuter, which leaves a small incision open so that the surgery site can drain.** They may have small drops of blood/fluid that will drain from their incision site for 2-3 days after surgery. **If your male dog had a prescrotal neuter, there will be no open drainage.**
5. **Your pet was given a pain management injection during surgery.** Please do not give your pet any additional pain relievers other than prescribed as mixing medications can be FATAL.
6. **All animals have dissolvable sutures unless otherwise noted by the veterinary staff.** This means your pet will not have to return to the clinic as the sutures will dissolve on their own.
7. **Prevent your pet from licking the surgery site as this can re-open the incision and cause a painful infection.** You can purchase a cone (e-collar) or bitter orange lotion from our clinic that should be used for 7-10 days after surgery to prevent your pet from licking at his/her incision.
8. **Reduce your pet's activity. No excessive running, jumping, or playing for 7 days after surgery.** Too much activity can cause the surgery site to open or become swollen. This means no visiting the dog park, no solo yard play, and no training classes.
9. **Do not allow your pet to get wet for 2 weeks after surgery,** as this could cause the dissolvable sutures to dissolve before they should. This means no swimming, no beach, and no baths for at least 2 weeks after surgery.
10. **Keep your pet away from other animals,** especially those who may have not been sterilized yet. Unaltered males may continue to try and mount newly spayed females, especially those that were in heat. This can cause life-threatening complications, so it is very important to keep any at risk animals separated. Additionally, neutered males can still impregnate un-spayed females for up to 30 days after surgery.
11. **If your pet received a MICROCHIP today it was inserted under the skin between their shoulder blades.** It is very important that you do not briskly/firmly rub the area between the shoulder blades, as this area needs time to heal over from the chip insertion. If your pet is permitted to be overly active or is petted firmly in this area it can cause the microchip to dislodge during the first 1 to 3 days of the healing process. All animals are scanned as they are discharged home to insure proper placement of the microchip. Please be sure to follow all after care instructions to insure the chip does not become dislodged and lost.

### Vaccinations

1/30/2018

Vaccinations can take up to two weeks to become effective. Common side effects include redness and mild swelling at the vaccination site, decreased activity levels, loss of appetite, and/or a low grade fever. It is also possible for a pet to develop a small, firm nodule at the vaccination site. It should begin to shrink and vanish within 14 days. **Less common, but more serious side effects requiring immediate medical care can include difficult breathing, persistent and severe coughing, hives, persistent vomiting, or a swollen muzzle/face.**

### Complications

What you see on the day of surgery is what we consider normal. If you see any of the following signs please call the clinic **immediately** at 850-898-3380 to schedule a free recheck. **We are open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am until 5:30 pm.**

- Bleeding
- Lethargy
- Loss of Appetite
- Decreased Body Temperature
- Pale Gums
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lack of urination or defecation after 1-2 days

Please be advised that if an animal's illness or injury is not related to surgery, the Pensacola Humane Society will not be responsible for costs associated with care. We cannot be responsible for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated against nor underlying health issues which emerge after surgery. In addition, if post-operative instructions were not followed, the cost of the re-check appointment and care may not be covered by the clinic.

**RECHECKS ARE MONDAY – THURSDAY BETWEEN 10 AM AND 3 PM.**

**YOU MUST CALL AHEAD**

**TO SCHEDULE A SAME DAY RECHECK APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR ANIMAL.**

If you need **EMERGENCY** assistance, please call the Veterinary Emergency Referral Center (VERC) at 850-477-3914. The clinic is not responsible for the costs associated with any emergency visits.

**STAPLE REMOVAL IS AT 4:30 PM MONDAY- THURSDAY**

**WITHIN 7 DAYS OF YOUR PET'S APPOINTMENT**

**Waiting longer than 7 days can lead to complications.**

**Your animal will have a small green tattoo on his/her underside to indicate that he or she has been spayed or neutered.**



**PENSACOLA  
HUMANE SOCIETY**