

**Post-Operative Instructions**

7525 E. Trent Ave. Spokane, WA 99212

(509) 924-7826

**Pet Savers will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the below post-operative instructions have been followed in full.** Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. **We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions, or from contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.**

**1. Limit Activity – Keep them indoors for 24 hours (except to go potty)**

Some animals are active after surgery, while others remain quiet for a while. Either way, it is very important that you **limit your pet's movements** **during the 7–10 day recovery period**, as strenuous activity, such as running, jumping, or playing, could disrupt the healing process. **They cannot regulate their body temperature for 24 hours, make sure they are kept indoors in a climate controlled environment**.

**2. Keep Them to a Regular Diet**

**Your pet can have a small snack on the night of surgery**, **and their appetite should return gradually within 24-48 hours.** **Do not change your pet's diet at this time**, and do not give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other "people food" for seven days. Changes in their diet could hide post-surgical complications. Although patients' reactions to surgery can vary, lethargy, diarrhea, or vomiting are NOT normal (lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery) and you should contact us immediately if these occur. We can then assess if your pet needs to be examined by a medical professional. If we are closed and your animal needs to be seen, you will need to take them to the emergency clinic (509) 326-6670.

**3. Keep Their Incision Dry**

Dogs and female cats have internal sutures that provide strength to the tissue as they heal; these will dissolve after approximately four months **(sometimes you will notice a lump as the sutures begin to dissolve, this is caused as the sutures are absorbing into the skin. This bump will go down over time).** Surgical glue has also been applied to the skin to seal the incision against bacterial penetration. Male cats do not have any sutures, and, unless you are told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures. If you are told that your pet has skin sutures or skin staples, they will need to return in 10-14 days to have those removed.

**Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period, or apply topical ointment to the incision site**—the surgical glue on the incision will dissolve too quickly if it becomes wet. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm, although dogs can be walked on a leash to go to the toilet.

**4. Check Their Incision Twice Daily**

Female dogs and cats have a mid-line incision in their abdomen. Male dogs have an incision either just above or in the scrotum, and male cats usually have one incision, in the middle of the scrotum. Check these incision sites at least twice daily. What you see when we discharge your pet is what we consider normal. **There should not be any drainage. Mild bruising, redness and or swelling might occur post-surgery. This should be minimal.** Male cats may appear as if they still have testicles; this is normal, and the swelling should subside gradually through the recovery period.

**Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision**. If this occurs, we recommend you purchase Bitter Apple, Bitter Orange spray OR deodorant to deter licking and chewing (place your finger over the incision and spray/apply around the area – do not place directly onto the incision—it will sting!). If this does not deter them from licking, an E-collar must be applied to prevent them from being able to reach the area.

**5. Monitor Their Post-Op Pain Levels**

Our veterinarians employ a multi-modal pain management protocol—this means that different pain medications are administered before, during, and after surgery. **Dogs go home with tramadol (administer as directed) and cats are given metacam as an injection.** If your pet appears to be in pain after getting home, please call our clinic at (509) 924-7826, so that our staff can assess whether or not your pet needs to be examined.

**6. Keep In-Heat Females Away From Males**

If your female dog or cat was in heat at the time of surgery, you must keep her away from un-neutered males for **at least two weeks**. While she is now unable to become pregnant, she will still attract intact males for a short period of time. If a male dog attempts to breed a female at this point, it can cause her serious, possibly life-threatening, damage.

**7. Look Out for Complications**

Spaying and neutering are both very safe surgeries; however, as with all surgery, complications can occur. **Minimal bruising, redness and swelling should resolve within several days, but if they persist longer or gets worse, please contact us.** You should also contact us immediately if you notice any of the following:

Pale gums

Depression

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Discharge or bleeding from the incision

Difficulty urinating

Labored breathing

**8. Call if You Have Concerns**

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call us at (509) 924-7826.

If you have an emergency outside our business hours, contact your regular veterinarian or REACH emergency hospital at (509) 326-6670.

**EVERY ANIMAL RECEIVED A GREEN TATTOO NEXT TO THEIR INCISION SITE.**

THIS WAS APPLIED THROUGH SCORING METHOD.

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Mon: 8-4 Tue: 7:00-5 Wed: 7:00-5 Thurs: 7:00-5 Friday 8-4 Sat: 7:00-5 Sunday

 Reception Only Medical Medical Medical Reception Only Medical CLOSED