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## **Post Spay - Neuter Aftercare Instructions**

Your pet has undergone surgery and general anesthesia. Your pet's behavior may be slightly altered for the next 24 hours. For example: your pet may be glassy-eyed, sleepy, nauseous, shivering or irritable. Listed below are a few helpful tips to make your pet's recovery easier for both of you:

- 1. Please keep your pet quiet for the remainder of the day.
- 2. Discourage exercise for the next 10 days, especially with dogs.
- 3. Offer small amounts of food and water later in the evening. Your pet may feel nauseous. It may take 24-48 hours for the appetite to return to normal.
- 4. **DO NOT** allow your pet to lick, scratch or chew its incision. An Elizabeth Collar must be used for all surgical patients to aid in prevention of potentially serious post-operative complications. The collar should be worn for approximately 10 days. When your pet is wearing the collar you may need to assist them when eating by elevating their food and water dishes.
- 5. We usually use absorbable suture so your pet will not have to return to the clinic. 

  Suture removal needed in 10-14 days. We do not charge for suture removal.
- 6. **EXPECT SWELLING** a the incision site. This is a normal reaction to the absorbable suture material. Swelling should disappear in 2 weeks. If any bleeding or discharge occurs please call the clinic for instructions.
- 7. Keep the incision dry for a week after surgery. No bathing or swimming. Do not use peroxide or alcohol to clean the incision since it may cause irritation.
- 8. We use skin adhesive which may cause a green or blue discoloration at the surgery site.
- 9. Give your pet only the pain medication prescribed by our doctor. Over the counter human medications can be toxic to your pet.

Please call the clinic if you have any questions or problems regarding your pet's surgery. Regular business hours are Monday thru Friday 7am to 5pm. A post-op exam is provided at no charge, yet some fees may apply if medications are needed. We will not be responsible for services received at another facility. We are not a 24-hour facility.