



Dumb Friends League.
COMPASSION ALWAYS ♥

SPAY & NEUTER POST SURGERY HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

For post-surgery questions/concerns, please contact the Dumb Friends League Return for Treatment staff at (720) 241-7100. If you feel your pet needs emergency care after regular DFL hours, please call Animal Critical Care and Emergency Services in Lakewood at (303) 239-1200 or Evans East Animal Hospital in Denver at (303) 757-7881. If you choose to go to one of these facilities, please let the staff know you are a DFL patron. The Dumb Friends League will not be responsible for costs incurred at your regular veterinarian.

Feeding

- All animals can be fed small amounts of food and water the evening of surgery and can eat normally the day after surgery.
- Your pet may have a decreased appetite and/or may vomit and have some diarrhea for 1-3 days after surgery.

Activity

- Please restrict your pet's activities for at least 10 days.
 - Do not allow your pet to play roughly with other animals or children.
 - Cats need to be kept INSIDE. To reduce activity/injury cats can be housed in a bathroom or small area with access to food, water, a litter box and bedding for at least the first 24 hours.
 - Dogs must be leash walked and should have NO off-leash activity. To reduce activity/injury, a kennel can be used to keep dogs quiet when left alone.

Behavior

- It is normal for your pet to whine, whimper, meow or moan within the first 24 hours after surgery – this can be due to the anesthetic drugs given and does not necessarily mean your animal is in pain.
- Some drooling, shivering and panting may be seen after surgery due to stress and nausea. This should resolve over the next several hours.
- Your animal may have disorientation or drowsiness for 24 hours after surgery. This may be displayed as staggering walk, a lack of coordination or long periods of rest.

Incision Care

- All females have received a small, green line tattoo on the incision. This signifies she has been sterilized hereby preventing unnecessary surgery should she become lost or re-homed.
- Keep the incision clean and dry for 10 days.
 - Do NOT bathe your pet for 10 days.
 - Please look at the incision once daily. There should be no discharge or foul odor coming from the incision. Slight swelling, redness or bruising is normal.
 - Please refrain from applying any creams or ointments to the incision.
- Do NOT allow your pet to lick or scratch the incision. This can delay healing and cause infection.
 - If an E-Collar has been provided, it should remain on your pet for a MINIMUM of 7 days, or until you can be certain your pet will not irritate its incision. Please be aware of your animal's individual needs.

Pain Management

- Do NOT give your animal any additional pain medication today. Every animal received pain medication after surgery.
 - Dogs have received 2 days of additional pain medication to be given starting the day after surgery.
 - Never give your pet over-the-counter pain medications.
- Applying an ice pack wrapped in a towel to the surgical site may help reduce swelling and decrease pain.

Emergencies

- There may be an emergency if you witness any of the following:
 - The incision is oozing blood faster than you can blot it up.
 - Your pet's abdomen is distended and bruised all over.
 - Your pet cannot move or stand up three hours after surgery (however, it is very normal for a dog to get up, walk around briefly, and then lay down and return to sleeping the day of surgery).
 - Your pet's gum color, if normally pink (some animals naturally have black, brown or spotted gums), is pale or white.
 - Your pet appears to have difficulty breathing. Gasping or breathing with large chest movements may indicate your pet is struggling.

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