

## POST SPAY HOME CARE

### Situations that do arise

**Complications** - Notify the hospital at once if any of the following occur:

- Vomiting after 24 hours at home
- Diarrhea
- Refusal to eat after 24 hours at home
- Signs of severe pain (some pain and discomfort is normal for first few days after surgery)
- Excessive licking or chewing at surgery site
- Bleeding or discharge from surgery site
- Gapping of wound edges
- <animal> acts off or seems “not right” in any other way

**Lickers, Chewers and chewed out stitches** - Occasionally pets will lick and chew their incision site to excess. Since little tongues and teeth can do a lot of damage in a short time, this **MUST BE PREVENTED**. If your pet continues to lick and/or chew at her incision site, it will be necessary to place an Elizabethan collar on <animal> until the wound is healed. These are available from us at a nominal extra cost.

Occasionally pets will manage to get their wounds open and infected despite our best efforts to prevent it. This is nearly always due to over activity and/or due to excessive licking or chewing the incision. Please contact the hospital at once if you feel <animal> may have opened or infected her incision. In most cases, the incision will not need to be re-sutured. An Elizabethan collar will be required along with antibiotics to prevent infection while the wound heals, similar to a cut on your finger. Post-op rechecks are performed at no charge; however the incision will be repaired and treated at the cost of injections, supplies and antibiotics dispensed. **The owner is responsible for any and all costs of injections, supplies and antibiotics necessary as a result of any complication of the surgical procedure.**

- **Still acting like she's in heat!** - Generally due to the fact that <animal> was in heat at the time of the spay. In these cases, the problem should resolve in about a week. Less common causes include urinary tract infection and infections of the uterine stump. Occasionally, some pets, cats especially, may have undetected accessory ovaries which enlarge and become active after the main ovaries are removed. Finally, it is reported in the medical literature that on rare occasions a very tiny piece of the ovary will break loose during the removal process and reestablish itself in the abdomen without the surgeon's knowledge. In time these pets may begin to cycle again.

These complications are all very rare and are handled on a case-by-case basis. <animal> has recently undergone abdominal surgery in order to surgically sterilize her. The procedure is called a "spay", or more technically ovariohysterectomy. The items checked below were included in the procedure:

**Optional Pre-Anesthetic Testing** - screening blood testing done to help identify unforeseen internal medical disorders. This allows anesthesia to be tailored to each pet, or postponed entirely if serious problems are detected.

[    ] Results Normal

[    ] Results Abnormal

**Pre-Surgical Examination** - a physical examination, performed in order to help identify outwardly detectable medical problems which might indicate a need to modify or postpone anesthesia and/or surgery.

**Hospitalization** - all surgery patients are checked on periodically by the Doctor on the case before and after surgery. They are also monitored by trained veterinary technicians who check their vital signs and tend to such basic needs as fresh water, clean comfortable towels to sleep on, etc...

**General Anesthesia** - required in order to perform surgery in a safe, ethical and humane manner.

**Surgery** - In a standard ovariohysterectomy, all of the internal female reproductive organs, including the ovaries and uterus are removed.

The procedures outlined above complete the technical aspects of spaying your pet. But surgery is only part of the process. The rest of the job

belongs to you, the owner. By following the guidelines below you will be able to dramatically speed up your pet's recovery from surgery.

**Offer your pet small amounts of water when you get home.** No food should be offered until the morning after surgery. Realize that appetite may not be completely normal for a few days.

**Check the incision daily for redness, swelling or discharge.** If any of these signs are observed, please call and bring the pet by for a recheck.

**Restrict running, jumping and climbing stairs for the next (10) days.**

**No swimming or bathing for the next (10) days.**

**Do not give Aspirin, Tylenol, etc...** - over the counter pain relievers can be poisonous to pets. We can prescribe safe pain medication if you think it is needed.

**[    ] If this box is checked, your pet was in heat at the time of surgery**

Therefore, the following special instructions apply:

Expect blood tinged urine for 3-7 days post-op. This is normal and should not be a cause for alarm as long as it resolves in a timely manner.

**KEEP HER AWAY FROM MALES for at least (1) week.** It takes about a week for the "scent" of heat to fade away. Obviously, a spayed female cannot become pregnant, but the delicate healing, internal female structures could be damaged if a male is allowed to breed her in the week following surgery.

**Stitches or NO Stitches** - If <animal> had stitches, they need to be removed in 10 days. Please return for this service. **There is no extra charge for this service unless sedation is required.**

**Post-Operative Telephone Call.** A staff member may call you a few days after the procedure to check on your pet. Do not be alarmed. This is a routine call to find out how your pet is progressing after her surgery.

**Tattoo** -small green tattoo was placed on abdomen area of your pet.

Thank you for selecting us to care for your pet. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at 615/563-8387.