

## Post Neuter Home Care

**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 odd or seems “not right” in any other way

**Lickers and Chewers** - 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 his 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.

**Chewed out stitches** - 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 and chewing at the incision. Please contact the hospital at once if you feel <animal> may have opened or infected his 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 cost of injections, supplies, and antibiotics necessary as a result of any complication of the surgical procedure.

**Bruising** - Occasionally pets will experience some bruising of the scrotal area after neutering. This is thought to occur as a result of “seeping” of several microscopic blood vessels under the skin. This is more common in light colored pets, middle age and older pets and large breed dogs. Please contact the hospital if you feel <animal> may have excessive bruising. Despite its appearance the condition is not very painful and generally resolves in about a week without treatment. Sometimes antibiotics will be prescribed to prevent chances of infection.

**They forgot to neuter him!** Normal post-operative swelling typically makes the scrotum appear full, perhaps even normal size, for about 24-48 hours after surgery. This is normal and the swelling typically subsides in due course and the scrotum begins to appear less full. In time the scrotum will contract (shrink up) and become less noticeable.

<animal> has recently undergone major surgery in order to surgically sterilize him. The items below were included in the procedure:

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

**Results** [  ] Normal [  ] 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** - the Doctor on the case checks on all surgery patients periodically, before and after surgery. They are also monitored by trained veterinary assistants who will check their vital signs and attend 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 this procedure, both testicles (the male reproductive organs) are surgically removed. This is typically a very straight forward surgery. Occasionally, however, a pet will have one or both testicles retained in the abdomen. This condition is called cryptorchidism. These pets require a more extensive surgery where the abdominal cavity must be opened and a search made for the undescended testicle.

These procedures outlined complete the technical aspects of neutering <animal>. The rest of the job belongs to your, the owner. By following the guidelines below you will be able to speed <animal>'s recovery from surgery.

- Offer small amounts of water at frequent intervals after you get home
- Do not feed <animal> until next morning. Realize that appetite may not be back to normal for a day or two
- Outdoor cats should be confined indoors for the next 10 days so the surgical site may stay cleaner.
- Restrict running and jumping for 10 days
- No swimming or bathing for the next 10 days

- DO NOT give aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, etc. Over the counter pain relievers can be poisonous to pets.

**Stitches** [  ] Suture removal IS NOT required. (No skin sutures were used)

[  ] Suture removal IS required. Please return in 10-14 days for this service. There is no charge for this unless sedation is required.

**Tattoo** [  ] Small green tattoo placed on scrotum area on your pet.

Thank you. If you have any questions or concerns please call us at 615/563-8387.