

KC PET PROJECT

Post-Op Surgery Care Instructions

Your pet has just undergone surgery so he/she may still be feeling the effects of the anesthetic. Your pet may be uncoordinated, sleepy, or clumsy for the next several hours. Consequently, you will need to keep a close eye on your pet to ensure that he/she doesn't get injured and has a quiet place to rest while recovering from the anesthesia.

For best **post-operative care**, please follow these instructions:

***FOOD/WATER**: You may offer your pet water and a small meal this evening. If he/she vomits, take away the food and water until tomorrow morning. If he/she holds down the small meal for at least 1 hour, another small meal can be given later (this is especially important for very young animals as they need to eat frequently).

***E-COLLAR/CONE COLLAR**: Using a hard plastic cone collar at all times is the only way to make sure that your pet will not lick/chew at his/her incision. Licking/chewing at the incision can cause the incision to open or become infected. We strongly recommend purchasing a hard plastic e-collar from us or a pet store and placing it on your pet **at all times** that your pet is not being **directly** supervised by you. Some pets (especially cats) may need to have the collar removed under close supervision 2-3 times daily to allow them to eat and drink.

***ACTIVITY RESTRICTION**: Your pet has had major surgery today which includes an incision into the abdomen for females and into the scrotal area for males. It is extremely important that you keep him/her relatively quiet for the next 10 days in order to prevent complications. This means no running, jumping, climbing stairs, or doing anything other than walking on a leash for the next 10 days. This may mean that your pet needs to be kept in an indoor crate/kennel for most of the day and night for the next 10 days. Please keep in mind that the time of highest risk for the sutures breaking down is 3-5 days after surgery.

***PAIN**: You may or may not have elected to take home pain medications. Your pet has had major surgery today and will likely show some signs of pain if he/she is not receiving pain medications. These may include panting, whining, unwillingness to sit, lie down or walk, lack of appetite, fast heart rate, etc.). Please contact us immediately if your pet appears to be in pain.

DO NOT ever give aspirin, Tylenol, Advil/ibuprofen or any other human pain medication as these can be deadly for dogs and cats.

***PAIN MEDICATIONS**: If you elected to purchase pain medications, please give these as directed on the label.

***ALL MALE CATS AND SMALL MALE DOGS**: Please be aware that cat neuter incisions and some small dog neuter incisions are not sutured closed---that is, they are left open so that they can drain properly. It is normal to see an open incision in your cat's or small dog's scrotal area.

***SUTURES**: For female dogs, female cats, and most male dogs, there are absorbable sutures in the incisions which will dissolve on their own over the next 1-2 months. There are no skin stitches that need to be removed.

***BATHING**: Please do not bathe your pet for the next 10 days as we do not want soap or water to get inside of the incision or to irritate the surgery site. No swimming for 10 days either.

***MONITORING**: Please look at the area of the incision today so you know what it looks like. Look at it at least once a day until it is healed. If you notice fluid draining, bleeding, excessive swelling, or that the incision appears to be open, please call 816-683-1353 or contact your regular vet.

***TATTOO**: All pets receive a green line tattoo on their belly to identify them as spayed/neutered. Tissue glue has been put over the tattoo and the incision site. The glue will wear off, but the tattoo is permanent. There is no after care needed for the tattoo.

Please call 816-683-1353 should you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet.

Thank you for choosing to adopt a pet from the **Kansas City Pet Project**.