



SPAY Home Care Instructions

General

- **Complications** - Notify the hospital 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 mild discomfort is to be expected)
 - Excessive licking or chewing at surgery site.
 - Bleeding or Discharge from the surgery site.
 - Gapping of the wound edges.
 - Your pet acts odd or seems “not right” in any other way.
- **Lickers, Chewers, and Chewed out stitches** - occasionally, pets will lick and chew at their incision site to excess. Since little tongues and teeth can do a lot of damage in just 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 fit her with an Elizabethan Collar until the wound is healed.
Despite our best efforts, occasional pets will manage to get their surgical wounds open and infected. This is nearly always due to over activity, and/or excessive licking and chewing at the incision. We make every effort to avoid complications but surgery complications are always possible with any procedure. Complications might include infection, wound dehiscence (breakdown), or sutures chewed out by the pet. Please contact the hospital at once if you feel she may have opened or infected her incision. In most cases, the incision will not need to be re-sutured. Antibiotics may be required.
- **Still acting like she’s in heat!** – this is generally due to the fact that the pet was in heat at the time of the spay. In these cases, the problem should resolve in about a few weeks. Less common causes include urinary tract infections and infections of the uterine stump. Occasionally, some pets, cats especially, may have undetected accessory ovaries(s) that enlarge and become active after the main ovaries are removed. In time these pets may begin to cycle again.

For The Procedure

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

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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 and monitored by trained veterinary technicians who check their vital signs and tend to such basic needs as being walked, clean comfortable towels to sleep on, etc.

General Anesthesia - is 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.

Pain Control Medication - In our observations, pets who receive post-operative pain relief seem to feel much better the next day. They eat more and they eat sooner, and therefore they seem to heal faster and return to normal sooner. Oral medication is recommended.

The procedures outlined 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 bring the pet by for a progress exam.

Restrict running, jumping & climbing stairs for the next ten (14) days.

No swimming or bathing for the next ten (14) days.

Do not give Aspirin, Tylenol, etc - over-the-counter pain relievers can be poisonous to pets.

If your pet was in heat at the time of surgery the following applies:

- 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.

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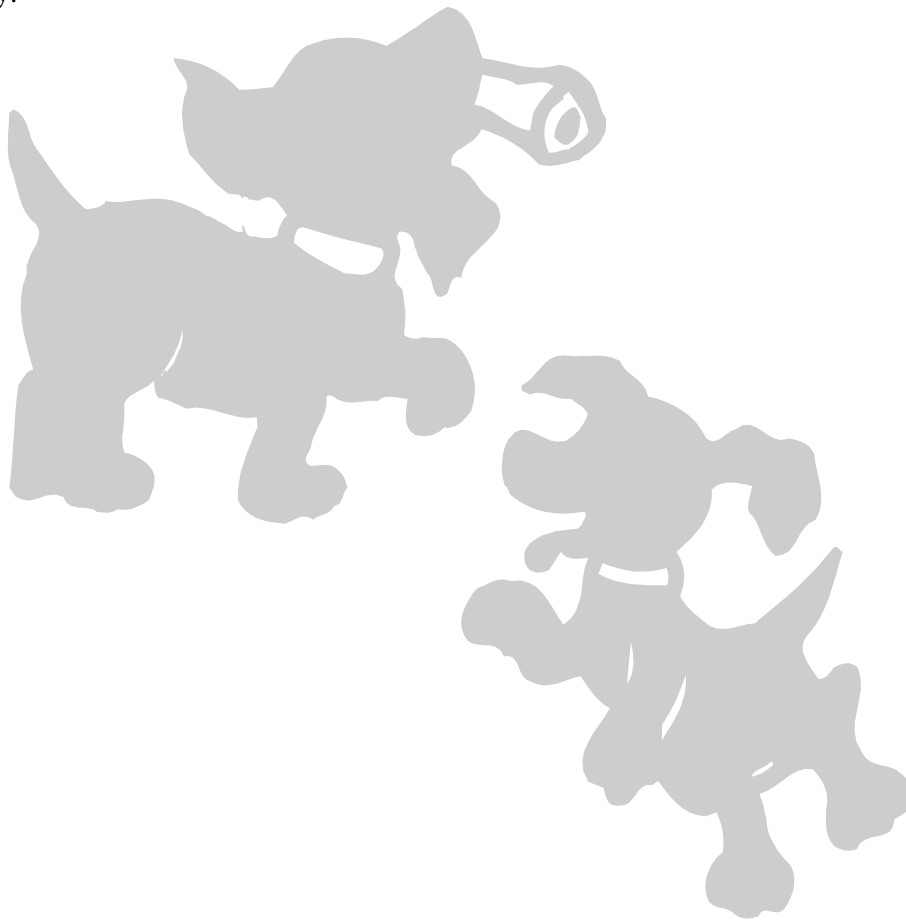


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- **Keep her away from males for at least (1) week.** It takes about a week for the “scent” of heat to fade away. Obviously, a spayed female cannot become pregnant, but the delicate, healing, internal female structures could be damaged if a male is allowed to breed her in the week following surgery.

Sutures - need to be removed in **14 days**. Please return for this service.

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.



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