



Neuter Home Care Instructions

General

- **Complications** - Notify the hospital at once if any of the following occur:
 1. Vomiting after 24 hours at home.
 2. Diarrhea.
 3. Refusal to eat after 24 hours at home.
 4. Signs of severe pain. (Some pain and discomfort is normal, even in pets that receive pain medication).
 5. Excessive licking or chewing at the surgery site.
 6. Bleeding or discharge from the surgery site.
 7. Gapping of the wound edges.
 8. He acts odd or seems “not right” in any other way.
- **Lickers and Chewers** – Male dogs will usually 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. Our staff will fit him with an Elizabethan Collar until the wound is healed. These are available at a nominal extra cost.
- **Chewed out Stitches** - occasional pets will manage to get their wounds open and infected despite our best efforts. 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 he may have opened or infected his incision. In most cases, the incision will not usually need to be re-sutured. An Elizabethan collar will also be required along with antibiotics to prevent infection while the wound heals, similar to a cut on your finger.
- **Bruising** - occasional pets will experience more or less extensive bruising in the scrotal area after neutering. This is thought to occur as a result of “seeping” of severed microscopic blood vessels under the skin. This occurrence is more common in light colored pets, middle aged and older pets, and large breed dogs. Please contact the hospital at once if you feel he may have excessive bruising. Despite its frightening appearance, the condition is apparently not very painful and generally resolves in about a week without treatment. Sometimes antibiotics will be prescribed to prevent chances of infection.

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- **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 does not indicate that your pet was “forgotten”. This swelling typically subsides in due course and the scrotum begins to appear emptier. In time the scrotum will contract (shrink up) and become less noticeable.

For The Procedure

The pet has recently undergone major surgery in order to surgically sterilize him. The procedure is called a “neuter” or castration.

Lab Screening: we offer blood testing to help identify unforeseen internal medical disorders. This allows us to better plan the post-surgical recovery period.

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 checks on all surgery patients periodically before and after surgery. They are also monitored by trained veterinary technicians who check their vital signs and tend to such basic needs as walking for elimination, clean comfortable towels to sleep on, etc.

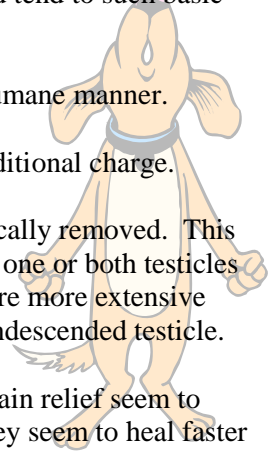
General Anesthesia: required in order to perform surgery in a safe, ethical, and humane manner.

Sutures: We may recommend absorbable sutures for the dog. This service is at additional charge.

Surgery: in this procedure, both testicles (the male reproductive organs) are surgically removed. This is typically a very straightforward surgery. Occasionally, however, a pet will have one or both testicles retained in the abdomen. This condition is called *cryptorchidism*. These pets require more extensive surgery wherein the abdominal cavity must be opened and a search made for the undescended testicle.

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 neutering 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:



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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 recheck.

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

No swimming or bathing for the next 14 days.

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

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 his surgery.

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