



# POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

## What you need to know after surgery

- Your pet had major surgery with general anesthesia, which means he/she was unconscious during the operation.
- In female dogs and cats, the uterus and ovaries are removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall.
- In male dogs and cats, the scrotum is not removed (unless surgically recommended), only the testicles. Male dogs and cats have one incision at the middle of the scrotum. Male cats may appear as if they still have testicles because the scrotum is swollen and empty. This is normal – the swelling should subside gradually through the recovery period.

## What to expect when you bring your pet home

- Restrict activity for 14 days. NO swimming, bathing, or mud for 2 weeks!
- Cats and dogs must stay indoors for 14 days while they recover, as they are not able to regulate their body temperature.
- Your pet may be groggy when you get home, experiencing a "hang-over" from the anesthesia and will typically require 18-24 hours to recover. Most animals will be back to normal when the anesthesia leaves their system entirely by the morning after the procedure.
- Provide controlled walking on leash mixed with kennel or indoor house rest and keep other pets separate.
- Your pet may sleep a little more than normal for 18-24 hours following surgery.
- Your pet may have poor balance. This will make climbing stairs or getting in and out of the car more difficult than usual, so be ready to assist. Help your dog in and out of the car as sudden movements can damage his/her stitches. Lift the dog by wrapping your arms around the dog's chest/front legs and rear/back legs.
- Poor balance applies to cats too! Make sure cats are kept in a room where they can be supervised and prevented from jumping onto counters, furniture, etc.
- **If your female dog or cat was "in heat" at the time of surgery, you must keep her away from un-neutered males for at least two weeks.** While she is unable to become pregnant, she will still attract intact males for a short period of time. Bruising and/or slight swelling around the incision can be common when your pet is in heat. She may also slightly continue to bleed from her vulva for an additional 2-3 weeks. Any concerns please come back for a recheck.
- **Male dogs and cats** can still impregnate unfixed female dogs and cats for up to 4 weeks after their neuter surgery. Make sure to keep them separate from females in heat during this time.

## Incision Site

- What you see on the day of surgery is what we consider normal. There should be no drainage. A very small amount of redness, swelling, and bruising at incision may occur.
- If the animal allows check incision site once daily for two weeks. Check for excessive redness, swelling, discharge, blood or if incision site is open.
- Do not clean, bandage, or apply any topical ointment to the incision site.

## Sutures

- Unless you are told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures.
- Male cats do not have any sutures.
- All sutures are absorbable on the inside. The very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue.

**Surgical mark – yes, your pet has a surgical mark!**

- Pets receive a small green surgical mark on the incision line. (Except for male cats)
- This is a universally recognized mark that identifies whether your pet has been spayed or neutered.

### Feeding

- Anesthesia tends to make animals experience nausea. Therefore, your pet may not want to eat when he/she gets home after surgery, this is common.
- You need to re-introduce food slowly. Offer a small amount of food and water as soon as you get home. You can offer a small amount of food every 1-2 hours if your pet is not vomiting. If vomiting occurs, wait until the next day to give more food and do not give medication unless told otherwise. Provide your normal amount of food and water to your pet on the day after surgery.
- Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other human food for a period of one week. This could mask post-surgical complications. Your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. However, if it does not you can try to feed Gerber baby food, such as chicken or turkey

### Potential Complications

Spaying and neutering are generally very safe procedures; however, complications can occur. Minimal redness, bruising and swelling should resolve within several days. Please contact Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center immediately (Monday-Friday) at 951-977-8634 if redness and swelling persists or if you notice any of the following:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Pale gums                               | • Difficulty urinating                |
| • Depression                              | • Labored breathing                   |
| • Vomiting                                | • Decreased appetite.                 |
| • Diarrhea                                | • Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours |
| • Discharge or bleeding from the incision |                                       |

\*Or go to the nearest animal emergency if you are unable to come to MSRPAC.

### Rechecks

MSRPAC will re-check your pet at our clinic for any complications resulting directly from surgery. There is no charge for the recheck exam but there may be a minimal cost for medication if needed (such as antibiotics) or an e-collar.

Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center hours of Operation:  
7:00am – 5:30pm  
Monday - Friday

Recheck hours:  
10:00am – 2:00pm  
Monday - Friday

Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions or for contagious diseases in post-operative period.

Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery.

If you need a surgery recheck during non MSRPAC Spay/Neuter Clinic hours that cannot wait until Monday, please go to Ontario Spay and Neuter (OSN).

We have partnered with Ontario Spay and Neuter to help assist our clients during non-business hours. The recheck examination fee will be \$20, plus any other services that may be provided to you by OSN. You may also visit another veterinary hospital or your regular veterinarian for rechecks. OSN is located at:

**Ontario Spay and Neuter**

750 N. Archibald Ave Suite KLM

Ontario, CA 91764

**1-(844) OSN- PETS (676-7387)**

**Hours of Operation:**

Saturday 9:30 am – 5:00pm

Sunday: Closed

**Emergencies**

Should your pet experience an emergency, please visit your regular veterinarian or a 24-hour emergency hospital. We are happy to refer you to the following organizations:

**Inland Valley Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Center**

909-931-7871

10 W 7<sup>th</sup> St

Upland, CA 91786

**Open 24 hours**

**VCA California Veterinary Specialist- Ontario**

909-947-3600

2409 S Vineyard Ave

Ontario, CA 91761

**Open 24 hours**

**Animal Emergency Clinic**

909-825-9350

22085 Commerce Way

Grand Terrace, CA 92313

**6am-8am/24-hour Weekends & Holidays**

**Corona Animal Emergency Center**

951-482-5137

541 N Main St

Unit 107

Corona, CA 92880

**Open 24 hours**