

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Keep Them Comfy

- **Keep your animal indoors** in a warm, quiet place away from other animals and children for at least 24 hours.
- **Offer a small meal** several hours after arriving home. Slowly increase meal size to the normal amount over the next 24 hours.
- **Start any pain medication provided**, the morning after surgery. *Do not give early*—your animal was given an injection for the pain, and it will last for 24 hours. Follow the label instructions. Don't give any over-the-counter medications unless your veterinarian prescribes them.
- **Restrict your animal's activity** for the next seven to 10 days. Walk dogs on a harness and leash—don't let them run free. Don't let cats run, jump, or climb.
- **Keep animals dry** for 10 days—no bathing, swimming, or playing in the rain.



No Licking, Please!

- **Don't let your animal lick or chew** at the incision, as this could cause it to come open and lead to infection.
- **Get a properly fitted Elizabethan collar or a recovery suit** from Amazon, Tractor Supply Co., a pet-supply store, or your veterinarian. It must be worn for at least a week, up to 10 days, to avoid complications from licking the incision.

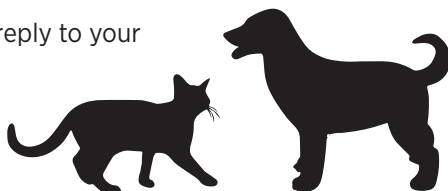


Things to Watch Out For

- **Check the incision at least twice daily.** Some swelling and redness are expected, but if you notice any drainage or excessive swelling or redness, get an Elizabethan collar or a recovery suit immediately and e-mail PETAClinic@peta.org. (*Note:* Some neuter surgeries have scrotal incisions that are left open to heal. In that case, some drainage is normal.)
- **Your animal may vomit and/or have diarrhea** after surgery. If this occurs, stop pain medication and offer plain, unseasoned boiled chicken and rice.
- **Your animal may shake, whimper, and/or feel extremely tired** following surgery. These symptoms should subside within 24 hours.
- **Feline patients may be very energetic and more loving** for 24 to 48 hours as a result of the pain injections they received.

Is It an Emergency?

- **Emergencies include continuous bleeding from the incision, continuous vomiting, severe pain, pale gums, and seizures. Take your animal to your regular veterinarian or an emergency veterinary hospital immediately.**
- **For postoperative or incision concerns, please e-mail PETAClinic@peta.org. This e-mail address is monitored Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **For general questions**, please reply to your appointment e-mail.



Good to Know

- **We placed a small tattoo on your animal's abdomen** to indicate that they've been sterilized. It's a small colored line near the incision or, for male cats, the belly button.
- **Your animal's sutures will dissolve** and do not require removal. Male cats do not require sutures.

For animal emergencies, call **757-622-7382** and follow the prompts.

PETA