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Post Surgical Care For Castrations and Spays

Your pet has undergone a surgical procedure that temporarily may cause some changes in behavior and/or appearance. The following will help answer the most common questions that arise after these operations.

An animal's pain threshold is much higher than a human's. Therefore, animals do not exhibit as much discomfort following surgery. Even so, please restrict your pet's activity for 7 days following surgery to allow for an uneventful recovery.

- ❖ Animals will often lick at the site of the incision. This is usually because of itching caused by being closely shaven. Occasionally it can be a result of irritation from the suture material. If licking becomes a problem, a belly band can be applied over the incision of females. A restraint collar also can be used if needed.
- ❖ A small amount of hemorrhage will occur at the incision site. This happens because of blood pooling under the skin. When the animal moves, a drop or two will discharge through the sutures. If bleeding is in excess or continues for more than 24 hours, please notify our clinic.
- ❖ Occasionally a hard lump will appear at the site of the incision. This is often because of the body reacting to the suture material or can be a result of blood pooling under the skin. If the swelling gets noticeably large, please contact our clinic. When the sutures are removed, the lump quickly disappears.
- ❖ Each animal recovers from the anesthesia at a different rate. Some animals are back to normal within 24 hours while others may take as long as three to four days to recuperate. Your pet will not be discharged from the hospital if he or she is unable to walk out. However, some animals may still be slightly unsteady upon release. Even so, your pet will recover from surgery faster if the convalescent time is spent at home.
- ❖ All external sutures should be removed in 10 days. Cat castrations do not require suture removal. Please call for an appointment for suture removal.
- ❖ Do not bathe your pet or allow your pet to swim before the external sutures are removed.
- ❖ Allow only small food and water portions during the first 12 hours. Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24 to 36 hours.
- ❖ You may observe decreased activity or appetite for one to two days. However, if your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact our hospital.
 - Loss of appetite for more than two days -Weakness -Vomiting
 - Refusal to drink water longer than one day -Depression -Diarrhea

Thank you for allowing us to attend to your pet's health needs. If you have any questions regarding your pet's surgery and recovery, feel free to contact our clinic.