



31300 Brandstrom Road, Stanwood, WA 98292  
360.629.7055 | www.thenoahcenter.org

## Surgery After-Care for Domestic Animals

Keep your Pet WARM! Pets cannot regulate their body temperature after surgery. Keep your pet isolated and confined away from all other pets & children. They should be kept INDOORS IN A SMALL ROOM (i.e. a bathroom, laundry room, or small bedroom). It's best for cats to remain in their carrier for at least a couple of hours after you get home.

It is normal for your pet to appear tired, groggy, agitated, & uncoordinated. They may not want to eat or drink the night of their surgery. Some pets experience continued tired or groggy symptoms for several days, however, they should eat and drink the day after surgery.

Offer small amounts of food and water once the pet can stand up and is able to hold its head up on its own. Do not be alarmed if they do not have an appetite tonight or you notice minor occasional vomiting (effects of anesthesia). It may take 3-4 days for their appetite and energy level to gradually return to normal.

- NO bathing or swimming for 14 days.
- LEASH WALKS ONLY for 7-10 days.
- **DO NOT allow your dog or cat to lick or chew the incision site** as it can easily cause an infection. Applying Neosporin to the incision daily will reduce itching, reduce the urge to lick and will help heal the incision site. **E-collars should be used if you notice any licking and are available for purchase.**
- DO NOT offer your pet any pain medication that is not prescribed by the veterinarian. Over the counter human pain meds can be harmful to your pet and may result in serious injury and/or death.
- Sutures do not need to be removed.
- The skin is closed with a surgical glue. Keep the incision site clean and dry.

Check the incision site daily for the next 10-14 days. It should remain dry, clean, and closed. Occasionally, a small hard lump might develop under the incision caused by a sterile suture reaction and IS NORMAL, and should resolve without treatment within 2-3 weeks. Slight redness, bruising, and/or swelling may develop and will usually decrease after the sutures have dissolved. This is also normal, however, you will need to keep checking the incision site to ensure the redness, bruising, and/or swelling does not continue to worsen.

The green in or near the incision site is normal, that is the tattoo that indicates your pet has been spayed or neutered. The intensity of the color will lessen over time.

**FEMALES:** If your pet was in-heat at the time of surgery, she may still have some normal vaginal bleeding. Males will continue to be attracted for up to 4 weeks after surgery. **DO NOT ALLOW MALES** to come in contact with her. **This can result in serious injury, internal bleeding and/or death.**

**MALES:** Hormone levels will begin to drop within 3-4 weeks. He may be fertile for up to 10 weeks after surgery.

The best diet for maintaining general health and a healthy urinary tract in altered cats (especially male cats): Feed predominately canned food and limit the amount of dry food offered. "Grain-free" diets are ideal for overall health in cats. We do not recommend solely feeding seafood type foods or an "all dry" diet. Provide fresh water daily.

### **Abnormal Conditions**

Please call and report any of these conditions to The NOAH Center, Spay & Neuter Clinic during normal business hours 9:00am – 5:00pm daily:

- Excessive Vomiting or NO appetite after 24-48 hours
- General lethargy after 48 hours
- An incision that is open or one that is excessively swollen, is draining, or has excessive thick discharge
- A rectal temperature of 103 degrees or above
- Pet licks at incision site excessively
- Pet is crying a lot & seems uncomfortable. It is normal for both cats and dogs to be more vocal as the anesthesia is wearing off. Keeping them in a dark, warm, quiet place can help.

### **Emergencies**

If your pet develops any of the following, seek immediate veterinary care.

- The incision is completely open (gaping) and/or tissue is protruding.
- Pet has been waking up normally, and now is non-responsive (does not acknowledge your presence or respond to his or her name, etc.). When roused, your pet should open their eyes or lift their head in response to stimulus.
- If the body temperature is 98 degrees or below. (When taken with a rectal thermometer.)
- Anything more than a small amount of bleeding (more than a few drops) from the incision or vulva.
- Pale white or yellow gums. Check gum color by pressing your thumb against gum and releasing. The spot should initially look white, but turn pink as blood returns. Remaining white can indicate excessive bleeding somewhere in the animal.
- Excessive swelling of the face or excessive, continuous vomiting. Allergic reaction can occur.
- Difficulty breathing and/or blue color to the tongue or gums.

Please contact our reception desk during our regular business hours 9:00am to 5:00pm, 7 days a week. If after hours, please call the closest emergency clinic. If they ask you to bring the animal in, take your medical record with you.

### **Keep in mind**

Your pet has just been through a major surgery. With any surgery requiring general anesthesia, complications can arise no matter how well the surgery was performed or how good the after care is. The Noah Center is committed to offering a high quality spay/neuter surgery service for our community. We employ highly skilled and experienced veterinary surgeons and licensed support staff. However, it is impossible to predict every possible complication. We are committed to helping our patients recover from their surgeries and will be happy to examine them in the days after surgery during our normal operating hours if you have concerns. If your pet requires emergency care from another veterinarian, all costs incurred will be at your own expense and responsibility.