



## Post-Surgical Instruction Sheet

**The most important aspect of post-surgical care is your ability and willingness to keep your pet INDOORS AND CONFINED TO A SMALL AREA. Failure to do so may result in serious injury to your pet and large veterinary bills. You are responsible for any follow-up veterinary bills in their entirety.**

- Anesthesia may cause stomach upset. Please restrict the amount of food and water your animal has access to immediately upon returning home. After 6:30pm, offer only two tablespoons of food and one-fourth of a cup or less of water. Attempt to have your pet eat and drink SLOWLY. Do not be concerned if your animal does not want to eat for the first twelve to twenty-four hours following surgery. If vomiting occurs, remove their food until morning. Puppies and kittens less than four months old can be offered two tablespoons of food and one-fourth of a cup of water as soon as they arrive home.
- Keep cats individually in their carriers at least throughout the night of their surgery. Cats may experience hallucinations and could injure other pets or family members by accident. Surgery and anesthesia impair your pet's ability to handle extremes of heat or cold. Male cats need to use shredded newspaper or "Yesterday's News" cat litter for at least seven days.
- Keep dogs in their carriers or a small room, if possible, at least throughout the night of their surgery. Do not leave your pet unattended or unsupervised outside. Surgery and anesthesia impair your pet's ability to handle extremes of heat or cold.
- Keep your pet in a confined area, away from other dogs, cats and children for a day. For the next five to seven days, keep your pet in a clean environment, which should be quiet, warm, and dry. This is mandatory for dogs and cats that live outside as well. Do not place them in a high place (i.e. a bed, a sofa, etc.).
- Restrict your pet's activity for seven to fourteen days after surgery. Prohibit running, jumping and rough play.
- Do not wash or clean incision, and do not allow your pet to get wet for at least seven days after surgery.
- Check your pet's incision twice a day (once in the morning and once at night) until healed. A small amount of blood seepage is normal immediately after surgery. Some redness and swelling of the incision is expected. If there is continued bleeding, discharge or a wound opening, please call The Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic or your veterinarian.

- Keep your pet from licking the incision. If you are not sure that you can manage this, we recommend buying an “E-Collar” from us. The cost is determined by size (between \$8.00-\$15.00). It fits around the neck and should be worn for five to seven days. Your pet will not be able to eat or drink while wearing the collar. We also sell “Yuck,” which has a bad taste to discourage the dog from licking.
- If there is damage done to the incision by your pet (usually by licking or chewing), please consult The Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic first, and then with your veterinarian. It is better to prevent this problem than have the pet undergo unnecessary anesthesia to repair the incision.
- **Please DO NOT give aspirin or Tylenol® to your pet for pain relief. These medications can be deadly.**
- Males remain fertile for four weeks after surgery, and females may bleed for about ten days after surgery, if they were in heat. Females in heat may have some bloody discharge for a few days, which is due to hormonal influences and is normal. Allowing them to mate after surgery can be life-threatening.
- If you have any questions about your pet’s condition, please contact The Humane Society between 9:00am-5:00pm. Pets are released the same day of their surgery. You are responsible for after-hour care.

Please have on-hand the phone number of an emergency animal hospital near your home. There are two veterinary emergency clinics located in Columbia:

Palmetto Regional Emergency Hospital for Animals  
921 Spears Creek Ct.  
Elgin, SC 29045  
803.865.1418

South Carolina Veterinary Emergency Care  
3924 Fernandina Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803.798.3837

Lexington Veterinary Emergency Care  
109 Palmetto Park Blvd.  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803.359.3199