



JONESVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Post Surgical Instructions For Your Pet's Spay

Your pet has received general anesthesia for her spay today. For this reason, you should expect your pet to be less active than normal for the next 12-24 hours. Furthermore, your pet may continue to be less active for several days after her surgery due to post operative pain. Pain medication has been prescribed to relieve your pet's discomfort. Please administer the medication as directed. Although it is usually best to give the medication with food whenever possible, the first dose can be administered 1-1 ½ hours after arriving home, even if your pet has not eaten.

Although your pet may not be interested in eating tonight, you may offer food and water 1-2 hours after bringing your pet home. Since general anesthesia can sometimes cause nausea, be sure to offer your pet ½ of her normal meal tonight. Do not be concerned if your pet won't eat or drink tonight as this is common post surgical behavior. However, if your pet has not had any food or water within 24 hours, please call.

Your pet has an incision on her belly. All the stitches are under the skin, so you do not need to return for stitches to be removed. Please monitor the incision daily. You should expect to see some redness at the incision site for the first 5-7 days and you may notice some swelling develop at the incision between 5-10 days after surgery. This is normal tissue reaction and part of the healing process. However, if there is drainage, discoloration, or odor from the incision, please call the office immediately to arrange for a doctor to examine her incision. If your pet is licking at her incision, she may cause irritation or infection. In this case, use of an e-collar to prevent licking will likely be necessary. Please call if this occurs so that we can advise you on how to manage this problem.

It is very important to restrict your pet's activity for 7-10 days after surgery to reduce post surgical complications, such as swelling at the incision, breakdown of the incision, or internal bleeding. We recommend that you do not allow your pet to run, chase balls, or play with other pets for 7-10 days. We also suggest that you walk your pet on a leash during this time.

Pets that were spayed while in heat **MUST** be kept away from intact males for 10 days after surgery. The female will still attract a male and, if bred, can suffer from internal bleeding.

Your pet can be bathed 10 days after surgery. If the incision gets dirty prior to that time, you may gently clean with an antibacterial soap and water and then gently dry the incision.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.