



# SPAY/NEUTER POST SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for adopting/fostering! The animal you will be taking home may have had surgery in the past few days. Please review the following post-surgical instructions to make sure your pet has a smooth and rapid recovery:

## The first 24 hours:

- Allow the pet to recover in a quiet, safe place indoors.
- Be aware that the behavior of your pet may be slightly different in the first 24 hours after surgery. For example, they may be glassy-eyed, sleepy, nauseous, wobbly, vocal, shivering, or irritable.
- Offer a small amount of your pet's normal diet, restrict treats, and offer water the first night. Your pet may be quiet and/or have a suppressed appetite for 24-48 hours after the surgery. Animals react differently to surgery and anesthesia; some recover more slowly than others.

## The 10-14 days after surgery:

- Your pet should be closely supervised and on exercise restriction for the next 10-14 days. Avoid running, jumping, and excessive playing. High activity increases your pet's risk of developing swelling around the incision site that could result in premature dissolving of sutures and opening of the incision.
- Keep the incision dry (no bathing, swimming, or licking). The stitches are internal and dissolve over time; getting them wet will cause the stitches to dissolve too quickly. If there are external sutures you will be asked to return in 10-14 days for removal.
- Check the incision twice daily until healed.
  - A small amount of blood, redness, and swelling of the incision is normal immediately after surgery.
  - Some animals may have a glue-like material over the incision; this is the surgical adhesive which will be gone after several days.
- Do not allow your pet to lick, scratch, or chew the incision. If this occurs, a cone(E-collar) must be used to help prevent potentially serious post-operative complications. These can be purchased at local pet stores.
- In most cases, simple post-op complications are not an emergency and can wait until the next business day to be checked. **If you feel you need EMERGENCY help, please go to the nearest animal emergency center.** Please note that Companion Animal Alliance provides no reimbursement.
- If issues arise that are directly related to the pet's spay/neuter surgery, please contact Companion Animal Alliance during our regular hours of operation by email at [adopt@caabr.org](mailto:adopt@caabr.org).