



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

## Spay and Neuter Clinic

12 Airport Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94401 • 650-340-7015

Monday – Wednesday and Friday 7 am–12 noon and 1 pm–6 pm

## Post-Operative Instructions

If your companion animal is female, she has undergone major abdominal surgery. Both of her ovaries and her uterus have been removed. If your companion animal is male, both testes have been removed. Here are instructions for her or his postsurgical care at home.

### Feeding

**Cats and dogs over 4 months of age.** Do not feed or give water until at least two hours after he or she gets home. After that time you can offer small amounts of food/water at a time. If vomiting occurs, wait an hour or two then try a small amount of bland food. If this small meal is held down, then you can repeat another small meal in an hour. If vomiting persists, or if your pet is not eating/drinking by the next day, please call our clinic.

**Kittens and puppies under 4 months of age** have most likely already had a small amount of canned food at our Spay/Neuter Clinic. Please offer their regular food as soon as you get home, unless the animal vomits, as it is important to keep their blood sugar level up.

Suggestions for dogs and cats that do not have an appetite in the first 24 hours after surgery:

- Warm and moisten their favorite food
- Hand-feed small portions of cottage cheese and/or lean cooked ground beef
- Offer a small amount of low sodium chicken noodle soup; dilute the broth and mix with regular food
- Some cats may like a warmed, gourmet-type canned cat food

### Housing

Because your pet has been under general anesthesia, and has been given an injection of pain medication, he or she may be less alert for the first 24 hours after surgery. It is important to confine him/her to a safe, warm and quiet room for the first night.

**Cats:** If your cat is not normally a strictly indoor cat, male cats should be kept indoors for at least 3 days, and female cats for at least 10 days. It is best if feral cats can be kept indoors, or in a warm, dry, sheltered area for at least 3 days. If a female feral was pregnant, please try to keep her in for 5-7 days.

**Dogs:** Make preparations to keep your dog indoors for at least one week. They may go outside to relieve themselves, but if possible, keep them on a leash and supervised at all times.

### Anesthetic Effects

**Cats:** You may notice your cat doing some unusual behavior, such as head bobbing and weaving. These signs, as well as glassy eyes, are normal effects of anesthesia. Your cat may be unusually sensitive to touch or noise, but should return to normal by the next day.

**Dogs:** Some dogs may shiver or tremble, salivate, have bloodshot eyes, and/or appear drunk. This is normal and these signs should wear off by the next day.

Some cats and most dogs handle the surgery and anesthesia by “sleeping it off”.

### Stitches and Tissue Glue

Your dog or cat has no external stitches, so there is no need to return to the clinic for suture removal. We use a medical tissue glue on the skin over the incision which may appear blue-gray and feel hard. This is normal and will disappear as the incision heals.

## **Tattoos**

You may notice that your female dog or cat has two small dark lines, one on each side, parallel to her incision. These are thin tattoo lines to indicate she has been spayed.

## **Litter Boxes**

Your male cat will require shredded newspaper in his litter box for the first couple of days after surgery to prevent contamination of his incision. You may place torn newspaper on top of regular litter as long as the cat's incisions cannot come into contact with any type of the cat litter. Female cats may use regular litter immediately.

## **Playing**

Do not encourage rough housing or hard play for 1-2 weeks after surgery. Recovering pets may be uncomfortable and may bite if provoked.

## **Bathing**

Do not bathe or allow any swimming for 1-2 weeks after surgery. This includes trips to the groomer.

## **Questions and Complications**

Discourage your dog or cat from licking, biting or scratching his/her incision area. Purchase a plastic Elizabethan collar from the clinic. If your animal experiences problems directly related to the surgery, please call and make an appointment to bring your animal in during our regular hours of operation. If you choose to take the animal to your own veterinarian and not to PHS/SPCA, we will not be responsible for any medical costs charged by your veterinarian.

In the event a problem should arise and our clinic is closed, call the Northern Peninsula Veterinary Emergency Clinic at 650-348-2575. The emergency Clinic can advise you over the phone. However, they are not associated with the PHS/SPCA Spay & Neuter Clinic. So, if you bring your animal to them, you will be expected to pay the emergency clinic at that time.

## **Emergency Clinics:**

- United Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Clinic  
601 Showers Drive, Mountain View  
650-494-1461
- Adobe Animal Hospital  
4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos  
650-948-9661
- Northern Peninsula Veterinary Emergency Clinic  
227 N. Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo  
650-348-2575

## **Swelling or Drainage at the Incision**

Some female cats and dogs will have a small and firm swelling under the incision. This is normal and will resolve on its own within a few days to weeks. If there is a large and soft swelling, or tissue protruding from the incision site, this should be checked immediately.

## **Bleeding**

There may be a small amount of blood oozing from the incision. If it persists, please call us.

## **Bloating**

Air can accumulate in dogs' stomachs and make it appear 2-3 times normal size. Although this is extremely rare, it can occur within the first 24 hours after surgery. Large and giant breeds such as Great Danes are especially susceptible. If bloating occurs, call your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary hospital immediately, as this condition can be fatal.