Stop The Cycle

Post-operative Instructions

Your dog or cat has undergone general anesthesia and surgical sterilization. For the safety and well-being of your animal, please follow these post-operative instructions carefully.

- **Dogs and cats must be kept indoors, in clean dry area for 10-14 days after surgery**. (NO bathing or swimming)
- With anesthesia, **stomach upset can occur**. We recommend that you only offer ¼ of your pets' normal meal this evening and increase the amount over the next two feedings. You can offer canned food or boiled chicken if you pet is reluctant to eat dry food. **Your pet should be eating normal 24 – 48 hrs after surgery.**
- **Restrict your animal's activity for the next 10 to 14 days**. Do not allow running, jumping, or unsupervised time with other pets. Females in heat at time of spay can still mate with males and this can lead to infection, inflammation and trauma resulting in severe complications. This is a major abdominal surgery. A woman undergoing this procedure would be on bedrest.
- **Use an e-collar at all times, to prevent your animal from licking/chewing at the incision site for 10 to 14 days.**
- If needed, you can gently clean around (but not on) the incision with a warm water on a washcloth. All pets will have green tattoo ink applied to a small area near the incision, and cats will have tattoo ink applied to the inside of the left ear. The tattoo is a universal indicator that an animal has been spayed/neutered and is an essential part of accomplishing SNAP's mission. The tattooed area may appear crusty or red for a few days.
- Sutures are dissolvable and should not require removal. Because male cat neuters do not require the use of sutures, we advise using shredded newspaper or Yesterday's News instead of litter in your cat's litter box for 10 to 14 days.
- **DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL TO DOGS AND CATS FOR PAIN RELIEF. TYLENOL IS TOXIC TO ANIMALS AND ASPIRIN CAN BE DEADLY AFTER SURGERY.** Your pet was given pain medication at the time of surgery. If your pet seems painful, give us a call or bring in during business hours. Oral pain medication is available for dogs for $15.

Incision Questions and Concerns

- Check the incision daily for the first 10 days. A small amount of crusting, bleeding and redness is normal immediately after surgery. Should you notice any continued drainage, swelling or opening of the incision; please bring your pet back **to the SNAP clinic during normal business hours** for a complimentary recheck exam.
- Male dogs may have an open skin incision on the scrotum, **this is normal**. The tissue will heal from the inside out in 10 to 14 days. There may be a small amount of bleeding or drainage for a few days after surgery.
- Incision complications are rarely an emergency, unless substantial blood is present or something is protruding from female incision. Please visit SNAPUS.ORG --→services-→post op instructions-→Incision Concerns link, for pictures and details of what is an Emergency vs can wait to come during business hours for a recheck.

Always seek Immediate care at an Emergency Veterinary Clinic if:

(Please note: all fees incurred at an outside emergency room or clinic are the sole responsibility of the owner)

***Your pet is unresponsive or has a seizure *Notice Grey, Pale, or White gums *Pet seems in respiratory distress**

***Your pet seems cold, in distress (paces, cannot get comfortable) or can't stop vomiting**

***There is excessive blood (male and female) or any tissue protruding from incision (females)**

For post-surgical problems or questions requiring immediate attention when the SNAP clinic is closed you may text or leave a voicemail on our emergency line. This line is monitored from 6 pm – 11 pm Monday - Friday, and 8 am – 11 pm Saturday - Sunday:

HOUSTON/PASADENA area 832.801.9476 SAN ANTONIO area 210.632.0902

Our team is on call to give guidance for **post-surgical questions and emergencies only**. For other question about your animal's health, or for emergencies not related to surgery at SNAP, please contact your private veterinarian or your nearest Emergency Clinic.