

# Post-Operative Instructions (GENERAL)

1. No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activities for 7 to 10 days. Keep your pet quiet. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. Not baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and kept indoors.
2. Check the incision site twice daily. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew the incision. If this occurs, and Elizabethan collar MUST be applied to prevent additional licking and shewing that could cause infection.
3. If your dog had a scrotal castration, they may have small amounts of drainage/discharge for up to three days.
4. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea, or vomiting is not normal, and your pet should be taken to your regular vet. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery.
5. Do not change your pet's diet at this time, and do not give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.
6. We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination with your regular vet 7 to 10 days after surgery, to have the incision checked for complete healing, to remove any skin sutures, and to discuss additional needs or follow-up care. If your pet received a vaccine at our clinic other than rabies, please discuss a "booster" vaccine with your regular vet. Canine distemper/parvo vaccine, feline leukemia vaccine, and feline distemper vaccine all need to be "boosted" 3 to 4 weeks after administration for the first vaccine for maximum effectiveness.
7. If there is any question or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call **the veterinary office that performed the surgery**. If there is an emergency after hours, please call, or contact your regular vet or an emergency pet hospital.
8. Your pet may receive a green tattoo next to their incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin; IT IS NOT AN EXTRA INCISION.