

**FOLLOW UP CARE: Call 610.751.7232.** This line is monitored daily during business hours. Please leave a message detailing your pet's information and specific questions or concerns with a telephone number for a return call. NNN will provide NON emergency follow-up treatment by appointment, during regular business hours for any postoperative complications resulting directly from surgery. You may need to travel to one of our other clinic locations. There is NO charge to see the veterinarian, but there may be fees for any medication dispensed and sedation, if needed. If you choose to take your pet to another veterinary office, the financial responsibility is yours.

Symptoms that may require emergency care: pale gums, labored breathing, vomiting lasting longer than 24 hours or difficulty urinating.

### **SURGICAL PROCEDURE**

- Your pet just had surgery under anesthesia. The side effects can last for 24 hours.
- Dogs may have a residual cough caused from irritation during intubation.
- Females have had the uterus and ovaries removed through a small incision on the abdomen.
- Male cats have open scrotal incisions. Swelling can make it appear as if they still have testicles but should gradually subside. Male dogs have either an incision on the scrotum or just above.
- The healing process generally takes up to 2 weeks. Cats may urinate excessively following this procedure due to the administration of fluids.

### **ACTIVITY: Most postoperative complications occur due to excessive physical activity after surgery.**

- Cats should remain in the carrier until the morning after surgery. This is for their safety to prevent injuries from poor balance and disorientation.
- For the first 24 hours, keep your pet separate from other pets and children. Rest and sleep are essential for healing.
- Your dog may exhibit poor balance, so be ready to assist getting into and out of the car. Lift your dog by wrapping your arms around the chest/front legs and rear/back legs. Please use a leash if you cannot avoid steps.
- For 10 days, dogs should have only short LEASH WALKS. Crate rest is encouraged to prevent excessive running or jumping onto furniture. NO baths during this recovery period.
- For 10 days, cats should be confined to a small area with food, water, and litter to limit activity.

### **USE of E COLLAR**

- If given a collar, your pet should wear it at all times for 10 days.

**\*\*Any repair needed for self-inflicted damage to the incision site will be the owner's financial responsibility.**

### **FOOD**

- Anesthesia and surgery can cause your pet to have a sensitive stomach. Excessive drooling is a sign of nausea.
- Offer them a ¼ of their normal meal and water later that evening. If they vomit, wait until the morning. Appetites should return to normal within 24 hours.
- Contact NNN if your pet is lethargic or having multiple episodes of vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours after surgery.
- Kittens and puppies (3 months) may be offered a few spoonfuls of wet food upon arrival home.

### **INCISION SITE**

- Unless told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures that need to be removed. The sutures are absorbable and may take **up to 60 days to be fully absorbed**. Male cats do not have any sutures unless this was a cryptorchid procedure
- Check the incision site daily for increased swelling or drainage. Small amounts of clear, blood tinged discharge from the incision is acceptable the first day. Call NNN if you notice excessive bleeding or discharge that is yellow, green or has an odor. Expect minor swelling and bruising near the incision.

### **PAIN MEDICATION**

- Your cat was given an injection of long acting pain medicine. Your dog will go home with oral pain medicine. Give as directed.
- Do NOT give your pet over the counter (OTC) pain medicine. Call the post-op line if you think your cat is in discomfort.

### **TATTOO**

- Your pet received a green tattoo next to the incision to indicate that your pet is fixed.

### **EYE OINTMENT**

- We administer eye ointment to keep them moisturized during surgery. They may appear glossy or have clear discharge.

### **MICROCHIP INFORMATION**

- All information provided to NNN for the appointment is registered to 24 pet watch. You may visit their website or call them at 1-866-597-2424 to update/change your contact information.
- You do not need to pay to keep your information registered but the company may offer additional services for a fee.

## FERAL CAT POST OP CARE

Keep the cat in its trap until the recovery period is over. Do not attempt to move to another crate or carrier. Coordination is hindered by anesthesia. Releasing cats that are not fully recovered from anesthesia are at risk for low body-temperature, which may result in death. Make sure they are in a quiet, warm, and dry area where you can check on it frequently. You may cover traps with a sheet, towel, or blanket to trap warm air and preserve body heat. If the trap is on a concrete floor, place newspaper underneath the trap.

In winter weather please KEEP THEM WARM. In the summer make sure they are in a well ventilated recovery area.

### WATER / FOOD

- NNN recommends wet food during the recovery period. No water is needed. Drop the food through the top of the trap. Do NOT open the door or the cat will escape.
- Kittens weighing less than 4 lbs. will be fed at the clinic and can be safely fed wet food as soon as they get home.

### EAR TIP / TATTOO

- ALL cats are LEFT ear tipped and receive a green tattoo along the incision.
- Ear tip: Bleeding may occur, typically if the cat thrashes around in the trap after surgery due to reaction to anesthesia.

### NORMAL SURGICAL REACTIONS

- Males: Expect slight bleeding from the scrotum. Larger toms may have more bleeding, but this does NOT require treatment.

### ABNORMAL SURGICAL REACTIONS

- Excessive lethargy or bleeding at incision site. Call the post op line.

### SAFE RELEASE

- Males can be released the next day, and Females should recover 48 hours in the trap unless otherwise instructed.
- **Lactating Females-** Surgery does not affect the mammary glands. Some may have an incision on their flank (side) to avoid mammary glands.
  - If kittens can eat on their own, give mama a rest and hold for 36-48 hours. Put her/ trap near where the kittens are living. Kittens as young as 3-4 weeks can eat a mixture of turkey pate diluted with water – NO cow's milk.
  - If the kittens are under 2 weeks old, hold her long enough to eat a can or 2 of wet food. Wait at least 8 hours after you pick her up to release due to effects of anesthesia.

### COMMON VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- Your animal may experience some of these side effects after getting vaccinated. These are considered normal. However, if they continue for long periods of time, you should call your veterinarian.
- Tiredness – Tenderness at the vaccine injection site – Poor appetite – Small firm bump at the injection site resolving within a few days.

### ALLERGIC REACTIONS

If an allergic reaction to a vaccine is to occur, it usually occurs within the first 48 hours. Please contact your veterinarian immediately if your animal experiences any of the following symptoms.

- Runs a fever for more than 48 hours or has a temperature above 104°
- Hives, redness, excessive scratching
  - Repeated vomiting or excessive diarrhea
  - Refuses to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
  - Difficulty breathing

**\*\*All records (including rabies certificates) are sent to your email address.**

**Please make sure to check your spam folder.**

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