



# Post-Op Care Instructions

***PLEASE RETURN AT 4:30 PM TODAY TO PICK-UP YOUR PET, UNLESS A STAFF MEMBER HAS INSTRUCTED YOU OTHERWISE. THE CLINIC CLOSSES AT 5:00 PM.***

***Pets left at our clinic past 5:15 pm, on the day of surgery, is subject to a \$20 late fee and may be taken to the Animal Emergency Center, where they will charge a boarding fee.***

--For the next 7-10 days, keep your pet indoors in a quiet, dry, warm place. If your pet has an e-collar (cone) we *strongly* recommend they wear it during the recovery period (7-10 days). Dogs are allowed outside ONLY to use the bathroom. You should try to restrain your pet from excessive running and jumping. This may be difficult so please try to monitor activity as much as possible. **Do not** allow your pet to go swimming or be bathed during this period.

--Your pet has received an injection of pain medication. Do NOT give any medication (prescription or over-the-counter) that is not specifically prescribed by a veterinarian to your pet. Human pain medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.) can cause serious illness which may kill your pet. If you were given take home pain medication, you may start giving it the day *after* surgery. This medication is to be given once a day, preferably with food.

--Male animals can still produce viable sperm that can impregnate un-spayed females for up to the next 4 weeks. They should be kept away from any un-spayed females so they will not produce offspring. It may take up to 30 days for male cats to stop spraying and female cats to stop showing signs of heat. Male dogs may still exhibit nuisance behaviors. These may be 'learned' and not go away completely. This is especially true in older males.

--All female animals should be kept away from un-neutered males for at least 2 weeks to prevent injury from attempted breeding. If your female dog was in heat before surgery, she may continue to bleed until her heat cycle has finished.

**FEEDING:** You may offer your pet  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of their normal diet tonight. Dogs should be given small amounts of water at a time. Cats can have their normal amount of water. If your pet is still groggy, withhold food and water until tomorrow. Your pet may choose not to eat and that is normal because they may have nausea caused by the anesthesia. Their appetite should return to normal in no longer than 2 days. **Do not** change your pet's diet or offer table scraps, milk, etc as it will cause stomach upset. Only offer them their regular diet.

**MONITOR THE INCISION AREA:** Please check your pet's incision area twice a day. Mild redness and swelling can be part of the healing process. You can apply a cool compress to the site to ease the swelling. You will notice green tattoo ink on the incision area of your pet. This will leave a permanent mark to indicate that your pet has been sterilized. Excessive swelling, bruising, or drainage is not normal. You should contact Spay Memphis or your regular veterinarian to determine treatment. Opening of the incision or excessive bleeding is considered an emergency. You should seek immediate veterinary attention.

Your pet's incision area is held together with tissue glue that will dissolve on its own. You do not have to get any stitches out. If the glue gets wet, it will dissolve. Keep the area dry, and do not allow your pet to lick the incision. Do not bathe your pet or put anything (including Neosporin) on the incision. Do not allow your pet to lay in the rain/mud. If your pet does try to lick/chew the incision, an E-collar should be placed on him/her and left on until the incision is completely healed, usually 7-10 days.

**MONITOR BEHAVIOR:** Persistent appetite loss, vomiting, or diarrhea of more than 2 days is not normal. Contact Spay Memphis or your regular vet. If your cat is hiding after surgery, put him/her in a carrier and monitor his/her behavior for distress. Extreme depression/lethargy or unresponsiveness by your pet is considered an emergency. Please seek immediate medical attention.

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If there is an emergency when we are closed, you may contact one of the following emergency facilities, **at your own expense:**

- Day and Night Animal Hospital 901-500-7556 (will possibly provide discounted service)
- Animal Emergency Center on Summer Avenue 901-323-4563

**SPAY MEMPHIS cannot be held responsible for any animals requiring attention after business hours.**

Spay Memphis will provide follow-up treatment Tuesday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery. Call us at 901-324-3202 to schedule a recheck. Please consult your regular veterinarian for illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery.

**Spay Memphis cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from a failure to follow post-op instructions or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.**