

# The City of Ottawa Spay/Neuter Clinic

## CARE OF YOUR PET AFTER SURGERY

### Evening of Surgery

To help your pet be comfortable and safe, you should:

- Keep your pet in a quiet place, away from other animals and small children.
- Keep your pet confined in a crate or small room overnight so s/he will not fall or get hurt.
- Check on your pet every few hours to make sure s/he is clean and comfortable.

### Food and Water

Offer your pet water and a light supper this evening. It may take a few days for appetite to return to normal.

### Rest

Restrict exercise for 2 weeks (1 week for male cats). This is essential for the tissues to heal and to avoid complications. Take your dog outside on a short leash to relieve him/herself but avoid running/jumping. Keep your cat indoors for 2 weeks. If there are other pets or small children in the household, discourage playing/ wrestling.

### Grooming

Do NOT bathe your pet for the next 2 weeks. The surgical incision must be kept dry.

### Sutures

The sutures will dissolve; they do not need to be removed. Male cats do not have any sutures, their scrotum heals on it's own. Discourage frequent licking, biting, or scratching of the surgical incision for 2 weeks to prevent the incision from opening up or getting infected. Normal grooming is allowed. If licking excessively we suggest: Shorts or boxers for male dogs, a T-shirt for female dogs or an Elizabethan Collar for any dog or cat.

## Minor Post-Operative Problems

It is normal for your pet to behave unusually for the first 24-48 hours.

Your pet may:

- Nap more than usual
- Be wobbly or tremble
- Vomit, urinate or pass stool in the house or crate

These are NOT emergencies. However, if you are concerned you may contact the Spay/Neuter clinic during office hours and arrange for a consultation (613-798-8970).

## Incision

Check the incision at least twice a day for the next two weeks. If you notice a lump, swelling, redness or a tiny gap please call the clinic during regular office hours.

## Emergency Post-Operative Problems

Serious complications are very rare but require immediate veterinary care:

Excessive bleeding from the surgical incision. If bleeding does not stop after 10-15 minutes of pressure to the area, or if bleeding recurs, seek veterinary attention immediately.

Opening of the surgical incision. This may happen if your pet is too active or is allowed to lick at the incision. Seek veterinary care immediately.

Unusually long or poor recovery from the anaesthesia or surgery. Your pet should be more alert and acting more like normal as each day passes. Your pet should be able to walk around the house or apartment without difficulty. If your pet seems weak or refuses to eat within 48 hrs, have your pet examined.

## Emergency Care

If you have an emergency during our office hours (see front of brochure) please call us.

If you have an emergency Monday to Thursday when our office is closed, please call the Client Service Centre at 613-580-2400 or 311 to reach our Clinic Veterinarian who is on call for EMERGENCIES ONLY.

If emergency care is required on Thursday after 10pm, on Friday, Weekends or on Holidays, please contact any of the following:

- The Ottawa Veterinary Hospital  
900 Boyd Ave, 613-729-6139  
Open 24 hrs a day

Or

- Animal Emergency Ottawa  
1155 Lola St, 613-745-0123  
Open weekdays 6pm - 8am,  
Fridays from 4pm,  
Weekends and holidays 24 hrs

Inform them your pet had surgery at the City of Ottawa Spay Neuter Clinic. In some circumstances post-surgical care at these facilities may be covered by the City of Ottawa Spay Neuter Clinic. However, the City of Ottawa Spay Neuter Clinic is not financially responsible for any unapproved costs incurred.

- You can also contact your own veterinary clinic, or any other clinic of your choice.