

## **Pet Spay or Neuter**

Your pet is recovering from major surgery and anesthesia. The best thing you can do for your pet is to keep it **warm and dry and calm and safe**. Even outside cats should be kept inside for a couple of days promote healing and to allow you to observe any problems before your pet is released. The best treatment is prevention; allow your pet to recover in a proper environment.

### **Food and Water**

- ☺ Wait one hour after returning home; then offer a small amount of water. If no vomiting occurs; then offer a small amount of food.
- ☺ Resume normal feedings on the day after surgery. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea or vomiting are not normal and you should call us.
- ☺ Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or other people food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.

### **Activity and Exercise**

- ☺ No running, jumping or excessive stair climbing for 14 days.

### **Incisions and Sutures**

- ☺ Examine area daily for swelling, redness and missing sutures.
- ☺ No suture removal is needed. The edge of the very top layer of skin is held in place with surgical glue. This glue will flake off in a few days and in some cases the skin will open about  $\frac{1}{8}$ <sup>th</sup> of an inch.
- ☺ Keep incision dry; no baths, although sponge baths are acceptable as long as sutures are not soaked.
- ☺ Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar MUST be applied to prevent it.

### **Tattoo**

- ☺ Your cat received one or two small tattoos. This tattoo prevents your cat from receiving unnecessary surgery if it gets lost in the future.

### **Follow-up Care**

- ☺ We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination at your regular veterinarian 7 to 10 days after surgery. Have the incision checked for complete healing and discuss additional needs, follow-up care and vaccination boosters.
- ☺ There is no reason to remove the sutures.

## **Complications, emergency or questions**

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery, vaccinations or treatment we administered, call 440-282-8335 or 440-522-6559. If there is an emergency after hours, and you tried to contact us but couldn't reach us, contact the Animal Emergency Clinic (440) 240-1400.