



## POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for choosing to have your pet spayed/neutered with Tulare County Animal Services! While there are rarely serious complications from spay/neuter, your pet did just have major surgery. You can help to prevent problems by following these Post-Operative Care instructions:

### What to Expect:

- You may offer your pet food this evening. Their appetite should return to normal within 24 hours.
- Your pet may seem tired for approximately 24 hours after surgery. Please make sure they have a safe, warm, and dry area to recover.
- Pets **MUST** remain indoors for at least 10-days after surgery.
- Activity should be restricted for 10-days after surgery with controlled and leashed walks to go to the bathroom.
- **It is EXTREMELY important that you do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision.** Most post-operative complications are a result of a pet licking, biting, or chewing at the incision site. If your pet begins to lick at their incision, you must obtain an e-collar and have your pet wear it at all times for 10-days.
- If your animal is female, keep them away from males for 3 weeks.
- If you had a male dog neutered, please note that the testicles are removed from the scrotum, but the scrotum (the loose skin around the testicles) is left in place. Often, the scrotum swells after surgery which makes it appear as if the dog is still intact. The swelling should recede over the course of a week, but it is **EXTREMELY** important that you limit your dog's activity and keep him from licking/biting/chewing at the incision site.
- Check the incision site twice daily. Incisions should have no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal.
- Minimal redness and swelling of the surgery site should resolve within several days, but if they persist longer, please call our office at 559-636-4050. You should also contact us immediately if you notice any of the following: pale gums; depression; unsteady gait; loss of appetite or decreased water intake; vomiting; diarrhea; discharge or bleeding from the incision; difficulty urinating or defecating; labored breathing. If this occurs after-hours and you feel it is a medical emergency, we encourage you to seek treatment from a Veterinary Emergency Hospital.
- We will make every reasonable effort to treat, at minimal cost, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-operative instructions are followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see any cause for concern at 559-636-4050.

### Vaccinations:

If your pet received a vaccine at our clinic other than rabies, please discuss a "booster" vaccine with your regular veterinarian or schedule an appointment to return to vaccination clinic at the appropriate time. Puppies and kittens must receive vaccinations every 3-4 weeks until they are 20 weeks of age in order to provide effective protection.