

Caring for your pet after a spay or neuter

Please follow these instructions carefully to help ensure quick, safe healing for your pet. If you feel there is an emergency or if you think your pet is suffering complications from its surgery, please text us immediately at 310-908-0510

When you get home

1. **Your pet may have an anesthesia "hangover."** They may be grumpy, or very reactive to noise, quick motions, bright lights, etc. Keep them in a quiet, dark, warm place. Keep them separated from other pets, children, and general commotion.
2. **Reintroduce food slowly.** Start by offering a small amount of food and water. If they are not nauseous, then more food can be offered gradually.
3. **Take a look at your pet's incision** so that you know what it looks like, that way you will be able to see how it is improving over the coming days or notice any problems.

The most important things

1. **Limit activity.** No running, jumping or playing for 7-10 days. If your dog or cat is older than 5 years they may need a longer recovery period.
2. **Monitor licking of the incision area.**
Male dogs are always sent home wearing an E-collar (plastic cone) for 7-10 days after surgery.
Female dogs and all cats should be monitored for excessive licking and redirected if possible. If your pet licks excessively, they may also need an E-collar.
3. **Check the incision daily** for any excessive swelling, bleeding or drainage.
4. **No bathing, grooming or swimming** for at least 10 days post surgery; you may clean around the incision with a damp cloth if needed

The next day

1. Your pet should return to its normal eating and drinking habits.



2. Continue to look at the incision. There may be some redness and a little bruising, but it shouldn't be excessively swollen, or have any discharge.
3. Male dogs must continue wearing their E-collar for the full recovery period. Other pets should be monitored to ensure excessive licking or chewing does not occur. If you see this, contact us to discuss whether an E-collar is necessary.

Potential complications

Spaying and neutering are very safe surgeries; however, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. Please **contact us immediately** if redness and swelling persists or if you notice any of the following:

- Pale gums
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating
- Labored breathing
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours after surgery

Please text us at 310-908-0510 with any concerns or questions