

Pet Sterilization Post Operative Care Instructions

Your pet's care after surgery is important to your pet's health. Please follow these instructions to avoid serious injury, even death, to your pet. TCAP will NOT pay any post operative bills associated with the care of your pet.

1. **Use an Elizabethan collar until your animal's incision has completely healed.** This should be approximately 7-9 days.
2. **Anesthesia interferes with an animal's ability to regulate body temperature.** Tonight, keep your pet confined to a small area (i.e. the bathroom with the toilet lid DOWN, a pet carrier or a laundry room) where it is warm and quiet. Do not put your pet on a bed or other high place. Tonight, separate your pet from young children and other pets. Keeping your pet in its own carrier is a great idea for the pet's safety.
3. **DO NOT give aspirin, Tylenol or other pain relievers to your pet.** These medications can be deadly to pets!
4. **Generally, anesthesia will upset your pet's stomach.** You can offer your pet something to eat or drink tonight when you return home, but do not be surprised if your pet does not do either. Please do not offer your pet a full portion of food. Do not be surprised if your pet vomits before or after eating.
5. **Anesthesia may wear off slowly**, so your pet may appear drugged this evening but will become progressively more active and alert with time. Pets may growl, claw at invisible objects and act strangely for up to 24 hours. Cats especially become aggressive as anesthesia wears off. Pets do best in quiet, dark places such as the bathroom (with the toilet lid DOWN) or the laundry room, but good monitoring should occur.
6. **All newly sterilized pets need time and rest to heal.** Please restrict your pet's activity as much as possible over the next week. This means no wrestling with children or other pets. Running and jumping should be minimized as much as possible. As female animals heal and their sutures dissolve, a small bubble may sometimes appear at the surgery site.
7. **Do not allow your pet to get wet or have a bath until the stitches the wound has healed.** If bathing is required, consult your personal veterinarian and minimize the amount of water at the surgical site.
8. **Monitor the surgical site daily for signs of bleeding or infection, i.e. weeping or oozing wounds, puffiness, bubble like masses under the skin, etc.** For the first five days, the main concern is to restrict the pet's licking of the incision. Licking can damage the incision itself.
9. **Your pet has buried sutures (and male cats do not require sutures).** Your pet does not need to return for suture removal. All sutures used are dissolvable.
10. If a female animal is spayed during her estrus cycle, she is still attractive to males for several days following her surgery and is still capable of mating. Although no possibility of pregnancy exists, you **MUST** keep her away from all male animals for up to two weeks.
11. Male animals are still capable of breeding for ninety (90) days or occasionally even longer after being neutered. Even though the testicles have been surgically removed, hormone levels remain in the bloodstream and viable sperm remain in storage canals for an extended period of time.

If you are concerned about your pet and would like one of our veterinarians to take a look at its incision, feel free to visit our clinics below. A check-up visit at a TCAP program will be offered at little, or no cost to you.

Denton location at 713 Sunset Street any
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. or Thursday 6-8 p.m.
Or our Fort Worth location at 2421 Westport Parkway any
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

If your pet has a LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY, visit your full service veterinarian or your local emergency clinic for care at your expense.