



Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League Post Surgical Care Instructions

Thank you for participating in our Spay/Neuter program. Your pet has just recovered from a surgical procedure that requires specific home care instructions. Please follow the instructions listed below as it applies to your pet's procedure.

Stitches: The surgical wound takes approximately 10 days to heal and we highly recommend that you purchase an Elizabethan Collar (E-Collar) to prevent your pet from getting to the wound. We routinely use surgical glue or dissolvable sutures to close the surgical incision. If we have used sutures that need to be removed you will be given an appointment time to return for suture removal ten days post surgery. The E-Collar should be left on until the wound heals and/or stitches are removed.

Feeding: Your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and you should contact us immediately. Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food for a period of one week. This could mask post-surgical complications.

Medication: There is some discomfort associated with surgery therefore your pet has been given an injection of pain medicine. Do not apply any topical ointment on the incision or give any other oral medications not prescribed by the doctor as it may make your pet sick. Your pet also received an antibiotic injection to help prevent infection. If your pet shows any sign of infection or illness call the clinic right away.

Cat Litter: Be sure the incision stays free of cat litter because it can cause an infection. An option is using shredded newspaper for five days post surgery or feline pine cat litter which isn't as likely to get stuck to the incision site.

Activity: Some animals are active after surgery, while others are quiet. It is very important that you limit your pet's activity for the next 7-10 days. No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity during the 7-10 day recovery period. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats must be kept inside. Keep your pet quiet. Dogs and female cats have internal and external sutures that provide strength to the tissue as they heal. Any strenuous activity could disrupt this healing process. The healing process usually takes at least 7 days.

Grooming: Do not give your pet a bath for 10 days. Water can get into the incision and cause infection. If your pet does get wet dry the incision site and watch carefully for signs of infection.

Licking: We highly recommend that your pet go home with an Elizabethan Collar (E-Collar). It resembles a large lamp shade that is worn around its head. Its purpose is to prevent your pet from licking or chewing at the incision. It is very important that the collar remain on at all times for 10 days. If you do not use the E-collar and your pet licks at the wound, the wound may open up and will become infected. This is a serious problem and can easily be prevented by having your pet wear the E-collar.

**Please help us help more animals!
Your donation in any amount is very much appreciated.**

We exist solely on donations. As a private not-for-profit shelter we receive no local, state or federal funding.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
Low Cost Spay and Neuter Program
3100/3200 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33409



Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League

Post-Surgical Care instructions, continued

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Urination/Defecation: Your pet may not urinate or have a bowel movement when he/she comes home. Some cats will not use the litter box in the absence of litter so an alternate option is a dust-free litter you can purchase here at the shelter or from your local pet store. If after one day, there is still no urine or normal stool, call the Clinic phone number listed below.

Nausea: Anesthesia may cause upset stomach in some pets. It may take up to a full day for the anesthesia to leave the body's system depending on the pet's age and health.

Incision: Check the incision each day. There may be some redness and even bruising associated with the wound. It is not normal if you see pus or blood oozing from the incision site. If you see any discoloration and/or oozing from the incision site, or if the incision has opened, call the Clinic phone number listed below.

Hiding: Some animals hide when they come home. It is recommended that you keep your pet in a smaller room or crate to ensure that you can watch them and check the wound daily.

Potential Complications:

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

- pale gums
- depression (lethargy)
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- discharge or bleeding from the incision
- difficulty urinating
- labored breathing

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call this office at (561)472-8812 or (561)472-8840. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your local animal emergency hospital.

If the above post-operative instructions are followed in full, we will treat at our clinic any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as possible if you see cause for concern. We **will not** be responsible for any post surgical medical expense incurred other than at the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League.

If you have any post-surgical concerns regarding the procedure, please call the clinic at: 561-472-8812 or 561-472-8840. Clinic hours are 7:30AM to 4PM Monday through Saturday, and 8AM to 4PM Sunday.