



## SPAYING / NEUTERING AFTER CARE

After most routine operations like neutering, your dog will not need to stay in overnight unless you are advised otherwise by the vet.

### EFFECTS OF GENERAL ANAESTHESIA:

- Your dog will still be groggy from the general anaesthesia when you get home and will likely require 18-24 hours to recover fully from the effects. They may sleep more than usual during this time.
- To help keep them calm, make sure your dog has somewhere quiet and safe (we strongly recommend a crate) to rest while they recover at home.
- Your dog may be agitated or aggressive due to after effects of anaesthesia; therefore, isolating them from young children and other pets is advisable.
- Try to avoid handling your dog too much as they will be disoriented and uncomfortable and may snap or try and bite.
- Your dog may have poor balance, which will make climbing stairs or getting in the car more difficult. They may need help, as sudden movements can damage stitches. Lift the dog carefully by wrapping your arms round the dog's chest/front legs and back legs.
- Anaesthesia can make your dog feel nauseous, so they may not want to eat or drink when they get home.

## **FEEDING:**

- Re-introduce food slowly. Offer only a small amount of food when your dog is fully awake. If vomiting occurs, wait until the next day to give more food.
- Provide the usual amount of food and water to your dog the day after surgery.
- Do not change your dog's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk etc. for one week, as this could mask any post-surgical complications.

## **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO LICK OR BITE THE INCISION**

## **THE INCISION SITE:**

- What you see on the day of surgery is what is considered normal. There should be no drainage. A very small amount of redness/swelling at incision may occur.
- If your dog allows, check the incision site daily for one week. Check for excessive redness, swelling, discharge or blood and ensure the incision has not re-opened.
- Licking or biting the incision could cause the wound to open and become infected.
- To prevent this you should get a cone collar or surgical vest.

## **SUTURES:**

- Unless you are told otherwise, your dog does not have external sutures.
- All sutures are absorbable on the inside. The very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue.
- If you are told your dog has skin sutures or staples they will need them removed in 7-10 days.

## **POST-OP ACTIVITY:**

- The healing process takes 7-10 days.
- Any strenuous activity could disrupt the healing process.
- Some dogs are active after surgery, others are quiet. It is very important that you limit your pet's activity during the healing process.
- Your dog must be kept inside where they can stay clean, dry and warm.
- No running, jumping, swimming or other strenuous activity during the recovery period.
- Do not bathe your dog or have them groomed during the recovery period.
- When outdoors dogs should be kept on a lead and taken only for short walks for the next 10 days.

## **POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS**

**Spaying and neutering are very safe, routine operations; however, complications can occur.**

**Please contact your vet if redness and swelling persists after a few days or you notice any of the following:**

- Pale gums,
- Depression,
- Vomiting,
- Diarrhoea,
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision,
- Difficulty urinating,
- Decreased appetite,
- Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours.

