

**HOMETOWN VETERINARY SERVICES
DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR FELINE SPAY**

CARE OF YOUR PET FOLLOWING SURGERY...

PROPER RESTRAINT: Please protect your cat when leaving the hospital by using a carrier. Excessive activity may result in your cat getting loose or result in injury if he/she is recovering from surgery. Do not allow your cat to become overly active and excited when you pick him/her up from the hospital.

FOOD AND WATER: With the excitement of returning home after surgery, your cat may be inclined to drink and eat excessively, which often results in vomiting. To avoid this, we recommend restricting access to food and water for an hour or so until your cat has quieted down. After this period of time, allow only small amounts of food and water for the first 8 hours.

DIET: Feed small meals several times a day for the next few days.

EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY: Patients recovering from surgery or illness should have limited exercise. Avoid unattended access to stairs or situations that may lead to injury. Due to the effects of anesthesia, your cat may be groggy for about 12 hours. Gradually allow your cat to return to normal exercise and activity. Your cat may resume normal exercise and activity in 14 days.

BATHING: No bathing or grooming is recommended for 14 days after surgery.

MEDICATIONS: If dispensed, it is important to follow directions carefully.

- None dispensed
- Medications dispensed, directions attached

SUTURES: Only female cats have sutures (or stitches) in their incision; male cats do not have any sutures. However, for both males and females, please check the incision daily for any swelling, redness, or discharge. If the incision appears irritated or infected, notify us immediately.

For females, discourage your cat from licking or chewing at the sutures. The incision is closed with absorbable sutures that the body breaks down over time, so there is no need for a follow-up appointment to have the sutures removed. The sutures simply dissolve over time.

A normal healing response to the absorbable sutures is for a firm swelling (or "seroma") to develop at the incision site after several days and to persist for up to 2 - 3 weeks. However, any discharge or pus coming from the incision is considered abnormal. If you should see any discharge please notify the hospital immediately.

MONITOR: A decrease in activity or appetite for 1 - 2 days may be observed. However, if your pet shows any of the following symptoms, please notify the hospital:

- (1) Loss of appetite for over 2 days
- (2) Refusal to drink water for over 1 day
- (3) Weakness
- (4) Depression
- (5) Vomiting
- (6) Diarrhea

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Please watch for licking of the surgical area. You may have to pick up an Elizabethan collar (E-collar or "cone of shame") to prevent excessive licking and infection of the incision.

PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!