

## Spay/Neuter Post-Operative Care Information

Congratulations! You are a responsible pet owner. By having your pet spayed/neutered, you have increased your pet's chances for a longer, healthier life. In addition, you have also helped to address the pet overpopulation problem. Post-operative care is simple but important in helping your pet with recovery.

- Your pet may exhibit signs of still being under the influence of anesthesia. This is a normal condition and is affected by the size and age of the animal. This condition will diminish over time.
- When your pet first returns home after surgery, please be sure they have an opportunity to go to the bathroom. It has been a long day for them.
- Please do not expose your pet to loud noises or too much activity. Your pet will recover most quickly in a quiet, warm environment.
- You may offer your pet a small amount of food and water. Some animals do not wish to eat directly following surgery. This is normal. Your pet's appetite should return to normal by the next day. If your pet's eating habits have not returned to normal within 24 hours following surgery, please contact us.

### ***Male/Female Dogs and Female Cats***

- Your pet has dissolvable sutures in their incision. These sutures do not require removal. However, as the body begins to absorb the suture material, there may appear a firm, painless swelling beneath the skin around the incision. This is normal! The swelling will diminish in one to two weeks. Please check your pet's incision site at least once per day. If you note any bright red blood or discharge from the incision, please contact us immediately.
- If your pet begins to lick its incision site, please place an E-collar on your pet for at least 5 to 7 days. E-collars can be purchased from pet supply stores, such as PetsMart, or constructed from a lightweight cardboard and taped or stapled into place around the neck. The collar should extend approximately 2 inches beyond your pet's nose. The collar should be tight enough to prevent your pet from pulling it off but also loose enough to allow normal breathing and swallowing.
- Please be sure to keep your pet's incision site dry for at least 2 weeks following surgery. Since the sutures are dissolvable, it is very important to prevent premature dissolving, which could cause the incision to re-open. Dogs should not be groomed for at least 2 weeks following surgery. Please consider areas where your pets could be exposed to water or excessive moisture and keep a close eye on them. Cats that are allowed to go outside should be kept inside for at least three 3 to 5 days to allow time for the incision to begin to adequately heal.

### **ALL PETS SHOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED THE FIRST 24 HOURS FOLLOWING SURGERY**

If your pet has a post-surgical issue, you must contact Every Creature Counts for assistance. We will not absorb the cost of any services incurred through other veterinarians. **If you need assistance, please contact us at 303/546-2704 ext. 2.** Messages are checked throughout the day and your call will be returned.

Every Creature Counts ~ PO Box 358 ~ Byers, CO ~ 80103  
303/546-2704

*We who reach to help another creature, hold the heart of humanity in our hands.*