

## AUSTIN VETERINARY OUTREACH & RESCUE- POST SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS

**YOUR PET HAS HAD MAJOR SURGERY TODAY! PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

- 1. Keep your pet indoors in a QUIET, climate-controlled place for at least 3 days.**
  - Your pet will be groggy for the first night, and some shivering is normal as body temperature returns to normal.
  - Keep your pet away from children, other pets, stairs, and other hazards.
  - No running, jumping, bathing or swimming, and strict exercise restriction (leash-walks only) required for **7-10** days.
  - If your female pet was in heat at the time of surgery, you must **keep them away from un-neutered males for at least 2 weeks**. While they are unable to become pregnant, if a male dog attempts to breed the female, it can cause serious, possibly life-threatening, damage to the female.
  - **Keep neutered males away from un-spayed females**. A newly neutered male can get an un-spayed female pregnant for up to 30 days after surgery.
- 2. Feeding tonight.** Anesthesia can cause an upset stomach and/or vomiting.
  - Pets, especially puppies and kittens, may have a *light* meal in the evening, once they are no longer groggy from anesthesia.
  - ALWAYS PROVIDE WATER, but give in small quantities at first.
  - If your pet vomits, discontinue food and offer only small amounts of water until the following morning.
  - Your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery.
  - **Do not change your pet's diet, and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food for one week.**
- 3. Pain medication.** Your pet was given long-acting pain medication in conjunction with the spay/neuter surgery.
  - DO NOT GIVE HUMAN MEDICATION TO YOUR PET. It is dangerous and can be fatal.
- 4. Incision.** Your pet's sutures (stitches) are not visible and do not need to be removed.
  - Monitor the incision site twice daily over the next 14 days. A moderate amount of swelling is normal.
  - *Male cats* will have an open incision on each testicle and may spot blood for 24 hours. Shredded paper, a brand of litter called Yesterday's News (at pet stores), or uncooked, long-grain rice should be used in the litter box for at least a week after surgery.
  - Pets should not be allowed to lick the surgery site – use an E-collar or-
    - For male dogs-* put on men's jockey underwear (backwards, with the tail through the fly),
    - For female dogs-* put on a long, snug t-shirt to prohibit licking of the surgery site.
  - A firm, *non-painful* knot of scar tissue may form at the incision site over the next month.
  - All animals, including feral cats, receive a small permanent **green tattoo** near their incision site to show they have been altered. *Be aware that the ink may stain furniture or clothing for the next few hours or can make the animal's tongue appear green if the area is licked.*
- 5. Post-surgical concerns:**
  - Our staff is on call **24/7**. For surgical emergencies or if you have any questions or concerns related to the surgery during the recovery period, you may reach the AVOR staff at **(252) 916-7347**. Leave a message and we will return your call within 10 minutes.
- 6. Follow-up care.**
  - Please retain a copy of your pet's medical record for future reference.
  - Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. *AVOR will not be responsible for costs associated with care due to a pre-existing condition, failure to follow post-operative instructions, or from contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.*

**You should call (252) 916-7347 if you notice:**

Loss of appetite for more than 2 days	Excessive diarrhea	Excessive vomiting
Refusal to drink water beyond the FIRST day	Pale gums	Difficulty urinating
Abnormal behavior, depression	Labored breathing	
Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery	Removal of internal stitches or opening of the incision	
Discharge, bleeding, or excessive swelling or redness at the incision site		