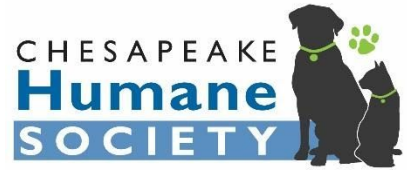


Post-Operative Care Instructions

Read the following carefully before picking up your pet. If you have questions, you may ask the veterinary staff at pick-up.

To avoid a late fee, please call 757-546-5355 if you will be late



1. **Keep pets indoors, warm and quiet, after surgery.** This will allow you to monitor your pet and prevents complications from activity or exposure to extreme temperatures.
2. **Restrict the amount of food and water your pet has in the first few hours at home.** Provide 1/2 of your pet's normal amount of food and enough water to cover the bottom of a water dish. If vomiting occurs, pull up food and offer again in the morning.
3. **Keep e-collar on for at least 10 days.** See attached sheet for further details
4. **Restrict your pet's activity for the next 10 days.** Dogs should be leash walked and only allowed out to urinate/defecate. Do not allow running, jumping, or vigorous play. **Too much activity** causes swelling and bruising of the incision or surrounding area and may cause internal bleeding.
5. **Check the incision at least twice daily until healed.** Slight swelling and redness is normal. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice continued drainage, swelling, excessive redness, or opening of the incision. For all neuters, check the scrotum for any swelling. The skin was closed with surgical glue. Only if it appears to be undone, check for any abnormal (red, yellow, white, or green) discharge. Otherwise, the skin will close via second intention. Do not apply any topical medications or cover the incision unless directed to do so by a veterinarian.
6. **Keep the incision dry for 10 days after surgery.** Your pet's sutures are dissolvable. Sutures do not require removal unless specifically indicated. Do not allow your pet to lick the incision. No bathing, swimming, or extended exposure to wet weather is allowed until the incision is healed.
7. **DO NOT give any type of human pain reliever, especially Aspirin or Tylenol, to your pet. These are toxic to pets and can cause death.**
8. **Give prescribed medications as instructed starting the next morning.** Your pet receives an injection for pain that lasts for 24 hours after surgery. Your pet will go home with an additional 3 days of oral pain medication to be started tomorrow morning.
9. **If your pet does not eat within 24 hours,** please call us **and** your regular veterinarian.

Your pet may experience the following harmless items in the first 24 hours after surgery:

1. Shaking, whimpering, or extreme tiredness from the stress of surgery and the remaining drugs in their system. It should subside in less than a day – just keep your pet warm and comfortable.
2. Redness, swelling, or very slight oozing of the incision. Restrict pet's activity and use the E-collar.
3. Cough, hoarse bark, or hoarse meow from the tube inserted in the pet's throat to administer anesthesia. If coughing and sneezing lasts more than a few days, call your veterinarian.
4. Lack of urination/defecation. Your pet hasn't had much to eat or drink in 12 hours. Normal body functions should resume by the next morning.

In the next few weeks, you may notice:

1. **A firm lump or raised area at the incision site,** typically from a reaction to the suture. Please call us or see your veterinarian if the lump remains for more than 2-3 weeks.
2. **Red or irritated incision.** This is usually caused by licking. To avoid infections caused by licking, use the E-collar as instructed. If you are concerned about the incision site, call your veterinarian.
3. **If you have concerns about the incision,** please email photos to: clinic@chesapeakehumane.org

EMERGENCIES

Pets displaying these signs must be taken to an emergency vet at once.

- Continuous bleeding
- Continuous vomiting (multiple times an hour for more than 2 hours)
- Bloating of the abdomen
- Extreme pain
- Pale gums
- Seizures
- Completely unresponsive pet (as if in a coma)
- Not eating or drinking within 24 hours (especially cats)