

# Ventura County Animal Services

## Shelter Animal Veterinary Services

### Post-Surgery Instructions for Spay/Neuter Surgeries

1. Anesthesia may cause stomach upset, to avoid this, please restrict the amount of food and water that your companion animal has access to immediately upon returning home. Confine the animal to a quiet, darkened room and allow him/her to sleep.
2. After 6:30 p.m. offer a very small amount of food (2 tablespoons) and water (1/4 cup or less). No gulping. Do not be concerned if your companion animal does not want to eat for the first 12 to 14 hours following surgery. If vomiting occurs, remove food until morning. Puppies and kittens less than 4 months old can be offered very small amounts of food (2 tablespoons) and water (1/4 cup) as soon as they arrive home.
3. Keep your companion animal in a confined area, away from other dogs, cats and children for a day. For the next 5 to 7 days, keep your companion animal in a clean environment (quiet, warm, and dry). This is mandatory for dogs and cats that live outside. Do not place them in a high place (bed, sofa, etc.).
4. Restrict your companion animal's activity for 7 to 14 days after surgery. Discourage running, jumping or rough play.
5. Do not wash or clean the incision and do not allow your companion animal to get wet for at least 7 days after surgery. For this reason, bathing is not recommended. For cats, replace normal litter with shredded paper for 2 to 3 days.
6. Check your companion animal's incision 2 times a day until healed. A small amount of blood seepage is normal immediately after surgery. Some redness and swelling of the incision is expected and normal. If there is continued bleeding, discharge or wound opening, please call the clinic or your vet.
7. Our sutures do not require removal. Buried sutures are used and skin closure is done by surgical glue. **Keep your companion animal from licking the incision. If you are not sure that you can manage this, we recommend buying an E. collar (purchase at pet supply stores).** It fits around the neck and should be worn for 5 to 7 days.
8. If there is damage done to the incision by your companion animal (usually by licking/chewing) it should be repaired. Please consult with your veterinarian. It is better to prevent this problem than to have your companion animal undergo unnecessary anesthesia to repair the incision.
9. Please DO NOT give aspirin or Tylenol to your companion animal for pain relief. These medicines can be deadly. Your animal has already been given pain medication at the time of surgery.
10. Your companion animal has had an ointment put in its eyes for protection during surgery. This may make eyes look glazed.
11. Males remain fertile for 4 weeks after surgery and females may breed for about 10 days after surgery if they were in heat. Therefore, females should be kept away from males. Allowing them to mate after surgery can be life threatening. Females, which were in heat, may have some bloody discharge for a few days; this is due to hormonal influences and is normal.
12. If you have any questions about your companion animal's condition, please contact the Veterinary Office at (805) 388-4341
13. Please have on hand the phone number of an emergency animal hospital near your home.