



CAT SPAY DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

The incision area may appear bruised and slightly swollen. This is a sign of normal healing. Please do not allow licking of the incision as this will cause it to open and become infected. If the incision appears very swollen, opens, or oozes any fluid, please contact us right away or stop by during for an immediate recheck Monday through Friday between 9am and 2pm.

OWNED CATS DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Proper Restraint: Please protect your pet when leaving the clinic by using an appropriate carrier.

Recovery: Most cats will be unsteady on their feet for the next several hours and may be lethargic for 1-2 days after surgery. Keeping them confined in a warm, quiet, dark room or a large carrier, and giving them only minimal contact during this time will help them recovery more smoothly.

Feeding: Cats may initially have an increased appetite after waking from anesthesia. You may offer them food and water when you get home and leave it with them overnight. Some cats may vomit a small amount due to effects of the anesthesia. If this continues tomorrow, please contact us right away.

Pain medication: Cats that are 5 pounds or less received a long-acting pain injection at the time of surgery. Cats that are greater than 5 pounds will go home on 2 days of oral pain medication - start tomorrow. If you notice vomiting or diarrhea, please stop giving your pet the medication and bring them in for a recheck exam Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cleaning: Please do not clean the incision site - products like hydrogen peroxide and alcohol are extremely painful and can impair healing of the incision. The incision should not get wet for at least 14 days.

We require that all owned cats be sent home with and wear an Elizabethan (cone) collar for 7-10 days after surgery to prevent licking and infection. Please pull food and water bowls away from the wall so that your cat can eat and drink with the collar in place. Any post-surgical complications resulting from not wearing the required Elizabethan collar may result in additional fees for surgical repair and appropriate medication.

Please note that all spay/neuter patients have received a green tattoo near their incision. This

tattoo is a shallow scoring in the skin filled with green ink and glued closed. As the skin heals a small green line will remain under the surface.

Activity: It is extremely important that you keep your cat's activity level to a minimum for 10-14 days after surgery. Please do not engage your cat in play behavior for the next 14 days. Avoid laser lights, wands, string, etc. Keep interaction with other pets and children to a minimum until healed. If your cat is an indoor/outdoor cat we recommend keeping your cat strictly indoors for 2 weeks after surgery. Increased activity can delay healing of the incision, cause the incision to open, or cause fluid buildup under the skin.

General Monitoring: If related to the surgery, we will do our best to address your concerns and get your pet feeling better as soon as possible.

Please contact us if any of the following occur:

- Loss of appetite for more than two days
- Excess drainage from the incision
- Uncontrolled pain
- Difficulty getting up or laying down
- Sutures come out
- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Swelling of incision
- Change in breathing
- Abnormal odors
- Refusal to drink water for more than one day
- Weakness
- Severe lethargy/depression
- Licking, chewing, or scratching of incision

If your pet requires further care beyond the capabilities of our clinic, or due to issues not related to surgery, you may be referred to your primary care veterinarian or the local animal ER.

For urgent emergencies that occur after hours, and cannot wait until the next business day, please contact the Mason Dixon Animal Emergency Center at 717-432-6030, located at 96 Sofia Drive #203, Shrewsbury, PA 17361.

TNR Program (Community Cat) Discharge Instructions

Recovery: Please protect the cat and yourself when leaving the clinic by using an appropriate humane trap. Cats recovering from anesthesia are more sensitive to external stimuli such as loud noises, light, and movement. Feral cats may have especially dramatic reactions during recovery. To minimize such reactions, please keep the trap covered with a sheet or blanket for the next 12-24 hours. Handle the trap slowly and gently to avoid scaring the cat, and keep it in a relatively warm, quiet, and dark environment overnight if possible. Do not release the cat until 24 hours after surgery.

Feeding: Feeding is important to help the cat combat the stress of transport and surgery. All TNR cats are given food and water the evening after surgery and the following morning before pickup. If you do not feel comfortable slipping food/water in the trap with the cat, you can drop dry food through the top of trap until the cat is released.

Medications: All TNR cats are given an injection of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) to provide pain relief for 24-48 hours following surgery. Please do not administer any additional medications.

Please note that all TNR cats have had a small piece of their left ear tip removed while under anesthesia. This shows that each cat has been spayed or neutered. All spay/neuter patients have received a green tattoo near their incision. This tattoo is a shallow scoring in the skin filled with green ink and glued closed. As the skin heals, a small green line will remain under the surface.

Safety: Keep the trapped cat away from children and other animals. Do not attempt to pet or handle the cat; do not risk getting bitten in any situation. If a bite does occur, DO NOT RELEASE the cat as it may need to be quarantined or tested for Rabies. Consult your doctor immediately.

For urgent emergencies that occur after hours, and cannot wait until the next business day, please contact the Mason Dixon Animal Emergency Center at 717-432-6030, located at 96 Sofia Drive #203, Shrewsbury, PA 17361.