



DOG SPAY DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Recovery: Please protect your pet when leaving the clinic by using a secure leash or carrier. Most dogs will be unsteady on their feet for the next several hours and may be lethargic for 1-2 days after surgery. Mild restlessness or panting is a normal side effect of the pain medication administered today. A mild cough may be noted for 1-2 days because of endotracheal tube placement while under anesthesia.

Feeding: Some dogs may be nauseated from the anesthetic drugs used for 12-24 hours. Tonight, feed a smaller meal than usual (1/2 of normal) a few hours after getting home, once your dog appears settled. You may resume normal feeding tomorrow unless instructed otherwise by a discharge technician.

Medications: All dogs receive an injection of pain medication prior to surgery for post-operative pain control. All dogs go home on pain medication for 5 days post operatively. Please confirm with the discharge technician that you understand the medication instructions. 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.

Incision Monitoring: The incision area may appear bruised and slightly swollen. This is a sign of normal healing. Please do not let your dog lick the incision as this will cause it to open and become infected. If the incision appears very swollen, opens, or oozes fluid, please contact us right away or stop by for an immediate recheck Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Bathing: 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 so do not bathe your dog during this time. If your dog becomes particularly soiled or dirty, you may spot wash or sponge bathe, taking extra care not to get the incision wet. No swimming until incision is fully healed (approximately 14 days).

We require that all dogs 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 pet 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 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.

Activity: It is extremely important that you keep your dog's activity level to a minimum for 7-10 days after surgery. No long walks or vigorous play during this time. Keep interaction with other pets and children to a minimum until healed. Increased activity can delay healing, cause the incision to open, or cause fluid buildup (seroma) 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.