

FIRST COAST NO MORE HOMELESS PETS 904-425-0005

Thank you for bringing your cat or dog in for sterilization today—you're helping us take a big step toward ending pet overpopulation! As our clinic is not staffed 24/7, we kindly ask that you monitor your pet closely at home to ensure they receive the best possible care during recovery. Your attention and care make all the difference for your furry family member.



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PET AFTER SURGERY

- **CHECK THE INCISION SITE DAILY.** There should be no drainage after the first day. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar **MUST** be applied to prevent your pet from irritating or opening the incision site. There will be a **FIRM LUMP** under the incision as the absorbable sutures are breaking down for 1-2 weeks. This is normal. **THERE ARE NO EXTERNAL SUTURES**, unless otherwise noted.
- **NO RUNNING, JUMPING, PLAYING, SWIMMING, OR OTHER STRENUOUS ACTIVITY FOR 7 TO 10 DAYS AFTER SURGERY.** Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats kept indoors.
- **PAIN MEDICATION:** If you chose to purchase post-operative pain medication, you may start the first dose after 6 p.m. the evening you pick your pet up from the clinic.
- **APETITE** should return gradually within 24 hours after surgery. Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours post-op, severe diarrhea, or persistent vomiting are not normal and your pet should be returned here for a re-check or taken to your regular veterinarian. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery.
- **DO NOT** change your pet's current diet or give them any table scraps, milk, or any other human food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call our office at 904-425-0005.

IF YOU HAVE CONCERN AFTER HOURS, take your pet to the nearest animal emergency clinic. FCNMHP is NOT responsible for the cost of care at another veterinary facility.

YOUR PET RECEIVED A GREEN TATTOO next to their incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin. IT IS NOT AN EXTRA INCISION.

FCNMHP will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from surgery. If the above post-op instructions are followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.

Your pet's follow up vaccinations are due in 3 weeks if the initial injection was administered today. These vaccinations must be completed to ensure effective protection! Please refer to your vaccination certificate for next due date.

FCNMHP Discharge Instructions

- **Food: ½ usual amount at 6:00 p.m.**
- **No baths for two weeks, leash walks only, and no running or jumping**
- **If you microchipped your pet, please register your pet at found.org/start**
- **Dog drop off is from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and pick up is from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. PLEASE BRING YOUR LEASH!**
- **Cat drop off is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and pick up is from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CATS NEED INDIVIDUAL CARRIER!**