

Your pet has just undergone major surgery. It is extremely important that you read and follow these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury or death of your animal.

1. **Your pet must be kept in a warm, dry place and as quiet as possible for 10 days following surgery. Do not bathe your pet for 10 days following surgery.** Dogs should be allowed outside for short, supervised, leash walks only. Cats should be kept inside for 10 days. Do not allow any running or jumping or allow the animal to exert itself. Prevent contact with other companion pets for the next 48 hours.
2. The surgical incision should be kept dry and clean. **Keep animals from licking or biting at the incision.** Use of an Elizabethan collar is the most effective way to prevent licking or chewing. The E-Collar must extend past the pet's nose and **MUST BE WORN 24 HOURS A DAY** until the incision is healed. This may be purchased here for \$15 to \$20 or at a pet store, your regular veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic. **The most common post-surgical problems are caused by licking the incision, so use of an e-collar is the most effective way to prevent these problems for your pet.**
3. There may be small amounts of blood seepage from the incision for the first 24 - 48 hours after surgery. Anything more than a small amount of seepage should be reported to the veterinarian at once. In about 10 days, a hard knot may develop at the incision site; this is normal.
4. **Your animal has dissolving skin sutures so no suture removal will be necessary.** Male cats do not have sutures in their incisions.
5. You may offer your pet a small amount of water when you get home this evening. If there is no vomiting, you may offer a small amount of food this evening. Please offer only a ¼ to ½ size portion of a regular meal tonight. Normal feeding may begin the day after surgery. Please be cautious not to over feed your animal or feed too quickly as this can cause vomiting.
6. **Anesthesia can cause nausea and vomiting** in some animals, just as it can in some people. This is normal. If this occurs, please rest your pet's stomach until the morning after surgery by holding off food and water tonight. If vomiting is excessive or persists, please contact a veterinarian after 24 hours.
7. Your pet will experience pain at the incision site for approximately the next week. Please talk to your regular veterinarian about safe and effective pain medication for your pet if you have not purchased it from us on the day of surgery. **DO NOT USE ANY OVER THE COUNTER PAIN MEDICINE** unless instructed by your regular veterinarian. **Your animal was given a subcutaneous injection of pain medication prior to surgery.** If you have obtained pain medication from the Humane Society of Charlotte or your regular veterinarian, you may start it the day after surgery after giving a small amount of food and water and ensuring that the animal is able to hold down food and water without vomiting.
8. Pain medications often cause animals to feel very little or no pain and they often try to return to normal activity levels sooner than they should. Please continue to limit your pet's activity level for 10 days as indicated above even if they show no signs of pain.
9. **For cats,** shredded newspaper or dust free litter should be used for 5 days following surgery to prevent infection of the incision site.
10. **Very Important:** Please be sure to check the incision daily. Please come in for your pet to be seen by our veterinarian if you notice the following signs of infection: swelling, redness (pinkness and scabbing is normal), tenderness, malodor, and/or discharge.

If your pet has a problem specifically related to this surgery, you may return to the clinic for a re-check between 12pm and 1pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. If you require a re-check on a Wednesday you may go to our Toomey Ave location at 2pm. In the event of an after hours emergency, please call your regular veterinarian or emergency clinic. Please be aware that if a problem arises that requires additional anesthesia that your pet will need to have been fasted for at least eight hours. The earlier you call in the morning, the easier it will be to see and possibly treat a problem that day.