

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for using our clinic. If you have a complication after surgery, immediately call the clinic during business hours. After hours, call The Pet Hospital (704) 629-5390. If it is closed, call the 24 Hour Referral Hospital of Hickory, 828.328.6697 or Long Animal Hospital, 704.523.2996. (Monday-Thursday 5:30 pm – 8:00 a.m. Friday 5:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Saturday & Sunday- open 24 hours.) **No reimbursements will be made to other clinics. We will not be responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously and properly vaccinated.**

1. **NO RUNNING, JUMPING, PLAYING, SWIMMING OR OTHER STRENUOUS ACTIVITY FOR 7 TO 10 DAYS.** Keep your pet quiet! Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. No baths during the recovery periods. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats kept indoors.
2. Check the incision site twice daily. There should be no drainage. 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 worn to prevent licking/chewing.**
3. Introduce food slowly. If vomiting occurs, withhold food for 4 hours, give water then gradually reintroduce food. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. **Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and your pet should be taken to your regular veterinarian.** Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery.
4. **Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food during the recovery period.** This could mask post-surgical complications.
5. Your pet will have received a post-operative anti-inflammatory injection.
6. We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination with your regular veterinarian 7 to 10 days after surgery. Have the incision checked for complete healing, to remove any skin sutures, and to discuss additional needs, follow-up care and vaccination boosters.
7. Your pet will receive a tattoo next to their incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin; it is not an extra incision.
8. **Vaccine Reactions:** Some pets may have severe reactions to vaccines. If you see swelling of the muzzle or tongue or hives, take your pet to the veterinarian **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
9. Unless otherwise noted, there are no sutures to remove.
10. Keep females away from intact males for at least two weeks.

Gaston Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic will treat any post-op complications resulting directly from surgery, if the above post-op instructions are followed fully. 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.