

Surgery After-Care Instructions (Read Carefully)

Your companion animal will act drowsy and unstable for several hours after surgery. The total effects of the anesthesia won't be gone until tomorrow. It is common for animals to shake and act uncoordinated when waking up. This is normal and caused by the anesthetics. Please remember older animals and overstressed animals may take longer to recover.

The surgical area may be slightly swollen and red for a day or so. A lump will form as the suture material begins to break down and scar tissue forms. This is normal if there is no redness or drainage, and the incision is not hot to the touch. Please call if you notice any of these problems with the animal's incision.

The first few days after surgery follow these guidelines:

1. Keep your companion animal quiet tonight and in a warm comfortable place. Anesthetics impede your animal's ability to control its body temperature. Do not leave your companion animal outside in the cold and make sure to keep it cool in hot weather, until the anesthetics wear off.
2. Keep your companion animal away from children and other animals. Surgical anesthetics can leave your companion animal confused or aggressive when waking up. It may not realize who is handling it, so use caution. Do not leave your companion animal where it could fall until the sedation wears off. Be especially careful with stairs.
3. Because your companion animal received a general anesthetic today, give only a small amount of water and food tonight. Feeding or watering your companion animal excessively may cause vomiting and/or diarrhea.
4. **Please do not allow your companion animal to lick or chew at the incision!** This can cause infection and may loosen or pull out sutures. If the animal persists on licking the incision, you will need to purchase an E-Collar.
5. Your companion animal will not need to have any sutures removed as they are beneath the skin.
6. Do not allow your companion animal to get wet for 7 to 10 days after surgery.
7. Do not give any type of pain medication such as aspirin or ibuprofen without your regular veterinarian's permission to do so. (Without proper administration, over-the-counter pain medications can cause serious injury and even death to dogs and cats.) We provide every animal with a 24-hour pain injection immediately after surgery.
8. **In case of a medical emergency, call the Cherokee Emergency Veterinary Clinic at 770-924-3720.** They are located at 7800 Highway 92, Woodstock, GA 30189. This facility will charge a fee to see your animal. Once your animal leaves our clinic site you are fully responsible for after care and all veterinary expenses.
9. Should you have any questions or concerns about your companion animal, a Georgia Animal Project volunteer can be reached at 770-710-9599 until 8:00 pm the night of the surgical procedure. After that, call the Georgia Animal Project at 770-704-PAWS and leave a message. Someone will return your call. These contact numbers are for questions and/or referrals only. After care is the responsibility of the companion animal owner.
10. Special Instructions:

THE NUMBERS ARE STAGGERING! Studies show that one female dog and her descendants can produce as many as 67,000 dogs in six years. In seven years, a single unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce up to 420,000 kittens. Sadly, the majority of these animals meets a premature death as strays or euthanized in shelters. **In our eyes you are a hero!**

Thank you for being a responsible companion-animal owner!

Your spay or neuter today was made possible through a generous grant from
The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation.
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