



Community Veterinary Services

Post-Operative Discharge Instructions

Community Veterinary Services Helpline: 617.293.6079

Remainder of today

- Anesthesia can lower your pet's body temperature, so it is extremely important that they are **kept warm and dry** for the remainder of today.
- If your pet appears groggy at pick up, they may have received their anesthesia later in the day and are still in the process of waking up. They should continue becoming more alert over the course of the afternoon and evening.
- You can offer your pet their normal dinner tonight. They may not be interested in eating this evening, but if they continue to be disinterested in food by tomorrow afternoon, please use the contacts below.
- Your pet may have been intubated today as part of our normal anesthetic protocol. It is normal if your pet coughs for the next couple days. Their throat may have been irritated by the endotracheal tube.

Reduce your pet's activity level

- **DOGS should be leash walked only** for the next 10 days. No running, climbing, ball-chasing, rough-housing, or playing with other dogs during this recovery period.
- **CATS should be kept indoors** for the next 10 days. Your cat should be confined to a quiet room (ie: bedroom or bathroom) until the following morning. Be sure to check your cat periodically to ensure they continue to recover properly.

Incision care

- Please **check your pet's incision daily** (which is located on the abdomen for females and near or on the scrotum for males). Check for any bleeding, pus, severe swelling or any kind of opening or seepage from the incision. Some females may develop a walnut size lump at on or at the incision site; this is very common especially in young, active cats/dogs.
- **Keep your pet from licking the incision. This is extremely important.** If your pet does lick or bother with the incision, please purchase an Elizabethan cone (lamp shade collar) from a pet supply store. Licking can lead to infection or opening of the incision which may require additional surgery that would be at your own cost.
- The **incision must be kept dry for the next 14 days**. Do not bathe your pet or apply any products to the incision.
- A small green tattoo will be applied near the incision of each dog and cat having surgery on the Spay Waggin'. This green tattoo is a visual indicator of the sterilization status of your pet, and thus preventing unnecessary surgery later in life.

Follow up care

- Your pet does not need to return for suture removal. All sutures used today are dissolvable and internal.
- If you have concerns or questions regarding your pet's recent surgery on the Spay Waggin', please call the **Spay Waggin' Helpline (617-293-6079) available 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday**
- If it is outside of this time frame, please contact New England Animal Medical Center or your regular veterinarian.

The Spay Waggin' Helpline

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(617) 293-6079

(Appointments: 877.590.7729)

New England Animal Medical Center

595 West Center St

West Bridgewater, MA 02379

Emergency (508) 580-2515

General Practice (508) 584-1600

- We encourage you to seek out a relationship with a veterinarian for the long-term health of your pet. Your pet should be seen annually by a veterinarian.

The Spay Waggin' is funded entirely by donations. Please consider donating to the Spay Waggin' so that we may be able to continue to offer this important service to others.