



Spay Waggin'

Post-Operative Instructions

Spay Waggin' Helpline: 857-350-8723

Remainder of today

- Anesthesia can lower your pet's body temperature. Keep them *warm and dry* for the remainder of today.
- If your pet appears groggy at pick up, they may have had surgery later in the day and are still in the process of waking up. They will continue to become more alert over the course of the afternoon and evening.
- You can offer your pet their normal dinner tonight. They may not be interested. If they continue to be disinterested in food by tomorrow afternoon, please contact us.
- Your pet may have been intubated today. It is normal if your pet coughs for the next couple days.
- All dogs and female cats need to be wearing an Elizabethan collar (lampshade cone) to prevent licking of the incision.
- Check your pet's incision hourly for the remainder of today. Your cat should be confined to a quiet room (ie: bedroom or bathroom) with their litterbox and food/water until the following morning.

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.

Incision care

- You must **check your pet's incision daily** (located on the abdomen for females and near or on the scrotum for males). Check for any bleeding, pus, seepage, swelling or any kind of opening from the incision. Some females develop a walnut size lump at on or at the incision site; this is common especially in young cats/dogs.
- **Keep your pet from licking the incision. This is extremely important.** Please purchase an Elizabethan cone collar (lamp shade collar) from a pet supply store. Your pet should wear it for 14 days. 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. This green tattoo is an indicator that your pet has been spayed or neutered.
- Your pet does not need to return for suture removal. All sutures used today are dissolvable and internal.

Follow up care

- If you have concerns or questions regarding your pet's spay/neuter surgery, **FIRST** call the **Spay Waggin' Helpline**. We are committed to the health of our patients and need to know of any issues regarding the surgery. Be aware that any services performed at another facility will be at your own cost.

Spay Waggin' Helpline

Monday - Thursday

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(857) 350-8723

(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 Animal Rescue League of Boston is funded entirely by donations. Please consider donating to the Animal Rescue League of Boston so that we may be able to continue to offer this important service to others.