

Post-Op Instructions

BEHAVIOR:

Your pet has had a major surgery. Your pet had general anesthesia, which means they were completely asleep and unable to feel or move. It is common for your pet to be groggy and/or sleepy the night of surgery, as the anesthesia doesn't fully wear off until the next day. Some other common side effects of anesthesia are whining, vocalizing, shaking or trembling. These resolve by the morning after surgery, but if you are concerned, please email us at surgery@standforanimals.org.

FEEDING:

Anesthesia can upset the gastro-intestinal tract and your pet may not feel like eating their dinner this evening. In order to get food in their stomach, dogs may be enticed to eat with plain cooked chicken and rice, canned dog food, lunch meat, etc. Cats may eat canned food, tuna, lunch meat, etc. If your pet won't eat, just let them rest and try again in the morning. An isolated episode of vomiting or diarrhea the night of surgery is also common and usually resolves by morning. If your pet experiences multiple episodes of vomiting or lethargy lasting more than 12 hours, please contact us at surgery@standforanimals.org.

PAIN MEDICATION:

If you have a puppy less than 5-6 months of age, they receive two pain medications, Tramadol and Carprofen (anti-inflammatory). If you have a dog over 5-6 months of age, they receive an injection of Meloxicam (anti-inflammatory) that lasts 24-48 hours, in addition to going home with Tramadol. Start the medication this evening around 6-8 pm. It's best if the pain medication is given with food, however if your pet will not eat the first night, you can give on an empty stomach.

If you have a cat, they receive oral Buprenorphine liquid. This medication is absorbed through the gums and only needs to be squirted in their mouth, not swallowed. Cats that stay overnight at the clinic will receive a pain medication the night of surgery and the morning after surgery. This means they are not due for another dose until this evening. If your male cat spent the night, he is not going home with pain meds, as he received a dose the night of surgery and the morning prior to being discharged.

SUTURES:

Unless told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures. All sutures are internal and will dissolve over time. A protective layer of surgical skin glue is also placed on top of the incision. Male cat incisions are not sutured closed. They are left open and will heal on their own within a few days.

In rare cases, some pets also have surgical skin staples. If you are told that your pet has skin staples or sutures, please schedule an appointment to have them removed in 7-10 days.

If you have a concern about the incision please do not hesitate to email a picture to surgery@standforanimals.org.

TATTOO:

All pets receive a small green tattoo near their incision site as a permanent identification that they have been altered. Male cat tattoos are placed on their abdomen near their umbilicus (belly button) and a small patch of fur has been shaved for this purpose.



INCISION CARE:

Check the incision site at least twice daily. Some initial redness and swelling may be present but should be minimal and improve daily. The incision should look better each day. No bathing or swimming for 14 days after surgery as the incision needs to stay clean and dry. Do not apply topical ointment to the incision as it will encourage your pet to lick. If you notice excessive redness, swelling, bruising or the incision looks open or has any discharge, contact us immediately by sending an email, with a picture, to surgery@standforanimals.org.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO CHEW OR LICK THE INCISION. It is strongly recommended that you purchase an e collar from us, or a pet store, to prevent your pet from licking their incision. Licking can cause an infection or the incision to open. If you are concerned about your pet's incision, send us an email, with a picture, to surgery@standforanimals.org.

ACTIVITY:

For female dogs, male dogs, and female cats, it is very important you limit your pet's activity for 10-14 days after surgery. Male cats should be kept quiet for 5-7 days. Dogs should be leash-walked outside to go potty and should not be allowed to run, jump, or rough-house. Cats should not be allowed to jump. Over-activity can lead to swelling and opening of the incision.

FEMALE cats and dogs should be kept away from intact males for at least 14 days, because it takes a while for the hormones to leave their system after getting fixed. It can be extremely dangerous and life threatening if they are allowed to mate with a male.

If you notice any of the following, please contact us immediately:

- Pale gums,
- Labored breathing
- Extreme lethargy
- Excessive vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Discharge or excessive bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating.

TO REACH US REGARDING A MEDICAL CONCERN

SEND AN EMAIL TO: surgery@standforanimals.org (Put **URGENT** in the subject line) a doctor will respond within the hour, prior to 10 pm.

After 10 pm, please call our answering service at 1-844-743-1222

Stand For Animals will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery if the post-operative instructions were followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illness or injuries that are not a direct result of the surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious disease for which the animal was not properly vaccinated prior to entering our facility.