

Pre and Post Surgical Appointment Instructions

Pet Drop-Off:

Drop-offs are between **8:00am – 9:00am**. Arrangements may be made for earlier drop-off, so please let us know ahead of time if this is needed. We will also accept the pet the night before for your convenience at no charge.

Pet Pick-Up:

Pick-ups are **after 4:00pm**. If your cat is being declawed, pick-up will need to be the next day for monitoring.

IMPORTANT PRE-OP SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS:

Withhold all forms of food/treats starting at 9:00pm the night before surgery.

Water is OK up until the time of the appointment.

Cats must be in separate pet carriers.

Dogs must be on lease or in a pet carrier.

Bring vaccination history papers (not tag) with you if completed at another clinic.

Females in heat or pregnant at the time of surgery will require an additional fee.

Males with undescended testicles will require an additional fee.

IMPORTANT POST-OP CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

Use the “Elizabethan Collar” until your animal’s incision has completely healed (especially with male dogs). This should last 7 to 9 days or more if needed to prevent further issues or infections.

Since Anesthesia interferes with an animal’s ability to regulate body temperature, keep your pet confined to a small area where it is warm and quiet for 1 and ½ days (i.e. laundry room, bathroom with toilet lid down, etc.). DO NOT place pet on your bed or other high places, and separate from young children and other pets. A pet carrier or kennel is a GREAT WAY to ensure your pet’s safety and relaxation needs.

DO NOT give your pet Aspirin, Tylenol, or other over the counter pain relievers. These can be deadly.

Generally, anesthesia will upset your pet's stomach. You can offer them small portions of food or water when you return home, but don't be surprised if they won't eat or drink. DO NOT offer your pet full portions of food.

Anesthesia may wear off slowly, so your pet may appear drowsy at first, but will become progressively become more active as time progresses. They may growl, claw at invisible objects, or act strangely for up to 24 hours. For best results, they do best in quiet or dark places with regular monitoring.

All newly sterilized pets need time and rest to heal. Restrict all activity as much as possible over the next week. This means no wrestling with children or other pets. Running and jumping should be minimal. Note: a small bubble may appear at the surgery site as females heal and their sutures dissolve. This is normal.

DO NOT bath or allow your pet to get wet until the stitches have been removed. If bathing is necessary, minimize the amount of water at the surgical site.

Monitor the surgical site daily for signs of bleeding or infection, (i.e. weeping/oozing wounds, puffiness, bubble like masses under the skin, etc.). For the first 5 days, the main concern is to restrict licking the wound, as it can damage the incision.

Your pet will have sutures (not required in male cats). They will need to return for suture removal in 10 days. Our staff will schedule your follow-up appointment during your discharge. If your pet demonstrates any unusual behavior, (i.e. laziness, labored breathing, etc.), please schedule an appointment immediately.

If a female is spayed during her estrus cycle, she is still attractive to males for several days following surgery and is still capable of mating. You must keep her away from all males for up to 2 weeks.