



Post-Operative Care & Emergencies

If your dog or cat had surgery at Halifax Humane Society, we recommend that the following post-operative instructions be carefully followed:

1. Dogs and cats must be kept indoors after surgery. This will enable you to monitor recovery carefully and will prevent complications and possible death from exposure to outdoor temperature extremes.
2. As with any anesthesia, stomach upset can occur. To prevent gastrointestinal upset, restrict the amount of food and water available to your dog or cat during the first 3 hours at home after surgery. You can provide one or two ice cubes to lick or chew during this time.
3. Do not offer food to pets immediately upon returning home (you may offer a very small amount of food 3 hours after you return home). You can gradually increase the amount of food and water over the next 24 hours.
4. Restrict your animal's activity for the next 7 days. Do not allow running or jumping.
5. You should check the incision at least twice daily until healed. A small amount of blood seepage immediately after surgery is normal. Should you notice any continued drainage or swelling, contact a veterinarian.
6. If the incision should become dirty, gently clean the area with a cotton ball and hydrogen peroxide.
7. You must not allow your dog or cat to become wet for at least 7 days after surgery. For this reason, bathing is also prohibited for at least one week after surgery.
8. If the surgery required the use of sutures, the sutures are dissolvable and should not require removal. Because male cat neuters do not require the use of sutures, we advise using shredded newspaper instead of litter in your cat's litter box for 7 days after surgery to prevent dust particles from irritating the incisions.
9. DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL TO DOGS AND CATS FOR PAIN RELIEF UNLESS SPECIFICALLY PRESCRIBED BY YOUR VETERINARIAN. TYLENOL IS TOXIC TO ANIMALS AND ASPIRIN CAN BE DEADLY IF ADMINISTERED AFTER SURGERY.
10. If you have any questions about your animal's condition after surgery, please call the clinic at 386-202-6633. For emergencies requiring immediate attention, call VECEV at 386-287-6500, 24 hours a day.