



Simply

Spay and Neuter

of Orange County

Post-Operative Instructions - Cat Neuter

(949) 837-7660

Your cat has just undergone a surgical procedure called an Orchiectomy (neuter/castration). The following is a list of instructions for his post-operative care.

When you get home:

- Please leave your cat in his carrier (if comfortable) or confined to a small bathroom until his behavior and mentation seem to have returned to normal (1 - 3 hours). Because patients are often still feeling the effects of anesthesia, he may choose to run and hide if let out immediately, making supervision/observation difficult.
- Some degree of sedation and/or nausea is expected. If seems excessive, please give us a call.
- Withhold solid food for 1-2 hours. It is ok to give small amounts of water.
- Your cat was given a dose of pain medication prior to discharge. The majority of feline neuter patients do not need any further pain medication. Please contact us if you feel your pet is in pain.

After a few hours:

- Please feed him 1/3 to 1/2 of his normal diet tonight. Tomorrow, normal feeding can resume.
- It is not uncommon to see a decreased appetite or mild episodes of vomiting during these first few hours.

The first 24 hours:

- It is not uncommon for a decreased appetite during the first 12-24 hours after anesthesia.
- It is also fairly common for him to not produce a bowel movement for up to 48 hours after anesthesia, due to a combination of effects of the medications used and the fasting period before surgery.
- Although there may be a very slight amount of oozing/discharge from the incision initially, this should subside by the next morning. If there is a significant amount of oozing, please call us.

The next 7 days

- **Exercise Restriction** - Please restrict your cat's activity for 3 - 5 days following surgery. We appreciate that this can be challenging, as he will likely be fairly active again within 24-48 hours! Rough playing or running up and down stairs should be limited. Over-activity can cause problems initially with bleeding, as healing is just beginning. Later, it can lead to excessive swelling, bruising and/or build-up of fluid at the incision (seroma or hematoma) which can cause discomfort and may prolong healing time.
- **Elizabethan-Collar (E-Collar)** - Please do not let your pet lick, chew or scratch at his incision. Placing an E-collar is recommended because licking and chewing can cause swelling or infection. **No licking or chewing!**
- **Incision Care** - Please use an E-collar and check the incision daily until healed in 5 - 7 days. Some redness and slight puffiness/swelling is expected, but if it seems to worsen, please call or bring your cat in for a recheck (no charge, when associated with the surgery) and we will be glad to help you evaluate the healing.
- **Baths/swimming** should be avoided for the next 7 days, until incision is fully healed.