



Simply

Spay and Neuter

of Orange County

Post-Operative Instructions - Cat Spay

(949) 837-7660

Your cat has just undergone a surgical procedure called an Ovariohysterectomy (Spay). The following is a list of instructions for her post-operative care.

When you get home:

- If your cat has a small bandage where the IV catheter was placed, **PLEASE REMOVE** the bandage within 1-2 hours from the time of discharge.
- 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 pet was given a long acting pain medication injection prior to surgery. The pain medication will last for 3 days. The majority of feline spay 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 her 1/3 to 1/2 of her 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 her 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.

The next 10-14 days

- **Exercise Restriction** - Please restrict your cat's activity for 7-10 days following surgery. We appreciate that this can be challenging, as she will likely be fairly active again within 24-48 hours! Rough playing or running up and down stairs should be limited.
- **Why?** Over-activity can cause problems initially with internal 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, may prolong healing time or more importantly, cause a breakdown (dehiscence) of the incision/sutures.
- **Stitches** - Most pets will **not** need sutures to be removed. Self-absorbing sutures are placed under the skin. In some instances. The doctor may place skin sutures or staples that may need to be removed in 10 - 14 days. **At discharge, our client service representative will discuss if a suture removal appointment is needed.**
- **Elizabethan-Collar (E-Collar)** - Please do not let your pet lick, chew or scratch at her incision. Placing an E-collar is highly, highly recommended because licking and chewing can cause swelling, infection, or worse, a dehiscence (breakdown of the suture line) which can, in females, become a disastrous life-threatening emergency. Please, this is very important. **No licking or chewing!**
- **Incision Care** - Please use an E-collar and check the incision daily until healed in 7-10 days. Some initial redness and slight puffiness/swelling is expected, but if it seems to worsen, please call or bring your pet 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 7-10 days, until incision is fully healed.