



Simply

Spay and Neuter

of Orange County

PostOperative Instructions - Dog Spay

(949) 837-7660

Your dog 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 dog 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.
- **Medication** - Your dog was prescribed an oral (given by mouth) pain medication. Please give as directed on the label. Side effects of the medication are rare, but may include vomiting, diarrhea or sedation; if excessive, please discontinue the medication and call us.

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 dog's activity for 10 - 14 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. Leash walk only and avoid visits to the dog park and/or playdates!
- **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 dogs 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 wear an E-collar and check the incision daily until healed in 10 - 14 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 14 days, until incision is fully healed.