



Stratford Perth Humane Society Spay Neuter Clinic

Post-operative Instructions for Owners

The Stratford Perth Humane Society would like to thank you for having your cat spayed or neutered! Please read the following post-operative information regarding your pet, and let us know if you have any questions.

First 24 Hours

Your pet may appear a little sleepy or groggy when you first pick them up, and may not be completely steady on their feet – please block any stairs where they may hurt themselves, or confine them to a small room if needed.

Post-Operative Concerns

We will provide follow up care at the SPHS or KWHS for issues pertaining to surgery at minimal cost. Please contact us during business hours at 519-273-6600 ext 235 if you have a concern. If you have concerns regarding your pet outside business hours, you will need to contact your local veterinarian or emergency clinic (reference list below). If you take your pet to an emergency clinic or to another veterinarian for treatment of a surgical issue, you will incur the costs and will not be refunded by the SPHS.

It is your responsibility to ensure any follow up care is given. Examples of concerns requiring immediate care are:

- Extensive swelling at the incision especially if accompanied by redness and pain.
- Open areas on the incision or any bleeding
- Vomiting in the week after surgery
- Suspicion of a fever in your pet. This may be seen as excessive sleepiness or lack of appetite.
- Lack of appetite which persists beyond 48 hours after the surgery.
- Anything which you feel is making your pet distressed or painful

Medications

All cats received a medication at the time of surgery that provides pain control for 24 hours. Male cats do not require any further pain medications. Female cats will be provided with 2 pre-measured syringes of oral pain reliever to be given tomorrow and the following day. Please follow the instructions on the medication label, and give with food. **If your cat develops vomiting, diarrhea, black stools or a lack of appetite while on this medication, please discontinue its use and seek veterinary attention. DO NOT GIVE YOUR PET ANY HUMAN PAIN MEDICATION;** this can be very dangerous and even fatal to your pet.

Diet

Please provide your pet with access to fresh water. Please feed your cat a small amount (approx. 1/3-1/2 their normal meal) of their regular food this evening. Please do not offer unusual foods or treats as it may upset their stomach. By tomorrow the feeding amount can return to normal.

Incision Care

Please check what your cat's incision looks like at the time of discharge – this is what it should continue to look like, any swelling or bruising should be minimal. **Please check your pet's incision twice a day to make sure it appears normal.** If you notice any excess swelling, bruising, bleeding or discharge, please seek veterinary attention.

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All sutures are placed under the skin and will dissolve on their own; no suture removal is required. Please ensure your pet's incision stays clean and dry, this includes no swimming or bathing for two weeks. If your concern is with how the incision is healing and your cat is otherwise recovering well, please email us a photo.

Prevent your pet from licking the incision. Some pets may leave the incision alone, but some will need to wear an e-collar for 7-10 days after surgery.

Tattoo

You will notice a small green tattoo near your pet's incision or the belly button to indicate that a spay/neuter has been performed. These tattoos are covered in a small amount of special tissue glue and a slightly crusty appearance is normal after surgery the hair will grow over the tattoo area and will no longer be visible.

Female Cats: The most common post-operative incisional complication that we see in female cats is called a seroma. Seromas are a common occurrence at the surgery site and do not require treatment. A seroma is an accumulation of fluid at the incision area. This causes mild swelling. These occur because of movement at the incision from an active cat and a normal reaction to the dissolvable sutures used to close the incision. Though seromas can resemble a hernia at the incision, the way we close incisions makes hernias extremely rare.

Seromas resolve themselves over a couple of weeks and do not require any attention. Seromas are not red or painful, and do not have any external discharge. They cannot be "pushed back" into the abdomen. If you have questions about a possible seroma please contact us.

Exercise

Please keep cats indoors for 10 days after surgery. High levels of activity such as running, jumping or playing can disrupt the healing process and cause the incision to become swollen or open.

Microchip

Your cat has had a microchip implanted under the skin over their shoulder blades. The number has been provided to you on your certificate of spay/neuter. We will register your pet's microchip with 24PetWatch using the information provided, but we recommend you contact the company to ensure the information is correct.

Emergency Clinic Reference List

This is a reference list only. The SPHS does not necessarily recommend or endorse these facilities. This is not a complete list and there may be emergency veterinary services which are not listed below.

Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Waterloo Region

405 Maple Grove Road, Unit 14
Cambridge Ontario N3E 1B6
Phone: (888) 787-0914

London Regional Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital

41 Adelaide Street North, Suite 45
London, ON. Canada, N6B 3P4
Phone: (519) 432-3300