



## What to Expect after Your Cat's Spay/Neuter Surgery



### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Your cat has undergone an anesthetized procedure that may cause slight grogginess or disorientation, and he/she may take up to 24 hours to return to his/her normal self.
- Please keep your cat in a quiet, warm environment, away from hazards like stairs or climbable furniture for the next 24 hours.
- Your cat may not be hungry or thirsty until the day after surgery and may experience isolated vomiting or diarrhea episodes that should not persist past 24 hours post-surgery.
- Do **NOT** let your cat lick or chew at his/her incision. It is important the incision site stay dry and clean to reduce potential infection or opening of the incision site.
- If your cat licks his or her incision, please purchase an e-collar at your local pet store in order to prevent him/her from doing so.
- Slight coughing is normal in the first 24 hours. This is due to the endotracheal tube placed in your cat's airway during surgery.
- For barn/feral cats: please keep in an enclosed, warm space for the night. Cats cannot regulate their body temperatures following spay/neuter surgery, and feral cats are susceptible to cold weather and being injured by other animals.
- The sutures used for spay/neuter surgery are dissolvable; you do **NOT** need to have these sutures removed unless we inform you otherwise.
- Due to potential manipulation of the bladder during a female spay procedure and the placement of sutures in the uterus, your female cat may experience discomfort or feel the "need to pee" more frequently. This is temporary and should resolve in 5-7 days.
- MINOR swelling, bruising, or redness around the incision is often related to a minor reaction to the absorbable sutures, which should resolve over time without additional treatment.
- To the extent possible, restrict/reduce your cat's activity (e.g. jumping, running, playing) for 7-10 days post-surgery. Remember that even if your cat seems normal, he or she has just undergone surgery and is at risk for complications from these activities.
- Do not allow the incision area to get wet or dirty for 7-10 days post-surgery.
- Monitor the incision site daily.

### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO WATCH FOR:**

***If any of these should occur, please contact Animal Friends Alliance immediately at (970) 484-8516. If we are not immediately available, seek emergency veterinary care.***

- Failure to respond to you; inability to be roused
- Pale/white or blue/purple gums, increased effort to breathe, enlarged abdomen, inability to walk or stand even with assistance
- Excessive bleeding, i.e. more than a few droplets or "smudges" of blood, at the incision site (in either males or females) or from the vulva (in females only)
- Signs of infection around the incision site: significant redness, swelling, discharge and/or odor
- Signs of incisional breakdown, i.e. significant or moveable swelling, opening of incision exposing tissues or organs below

*If you have any questions/concerns or your cat has any issues resulting from surgery, Animal Friends Alliance will schedule a free recheck examination at our facility. Follow up care (e.g. medications, surgical repair) may involve additional costs.*

**Animal Friends Alliance is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization**

Taft Hill Shelter: 2200 N Taft Hill Rd, Fort Collins, CO

Mulberry Shelter: 2321 E Mulberry St Unit #1, Fort Collins, CO

Clinic: 2321 E Mulberry St Unit #3, Fort Collins, CO

[www.savinganimalstoday.org](http://www.savinganimalstoday.org) - 970-484-8516