



What to Expect after Your Dog's Spay/Neuter Surgery



GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Your dog 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.
- In order to prevent toxic interactions with drugs administered during the course of the surgical procedure, do not give any additional medications in the post-operative period of 10-14 days that have not been previously discussed and approved by Animal Friends Alliance.
- Please keep your dog in a quiet, warm environment, away from hazards like stairs or climbable furniture for the next 24 hours.
- This evening, please offer small amounts of water and food at a time. If vomiting occurs, wait until tomorrow morning to offer again. Isolated vomiting or diarrhea episodes should not persist longer than 24 hours.
- Put the provided e-collar on your dog once he/she is comfortably at home and whenever you are unable to directly supervise him/her. Keep the e-collar on for 10-14 days.
- Do NOT let your dog 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 dog was neutered (male), you may apply an ice pack wrapped in a clean towel or clean cloth to the scrotal area twice a day for 10-15 minutes. Doing so will help reduce swelling
- If your dog was spayed (female), do not apply anything to the incision site.
- Slight coughing is normal in the first 24 hours. This is due to the endotracheal tube placed in your dog's airway during surgery.
- 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 dog 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.
- Restrict and reduce your dog's activity (e.g. no jumping, running, playing) for 10-14 days post-surgery. Please walk on a leash for bathroom breaks. Remember that even if your dog 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 10-14 days post surgery.
- Monitor the incision site more than once daily.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO WATCH FOR:

If any of these should occur please contact the Animal Friends Alliance Spay/Neuter Clinic immediately at (970) 484-8516. If we are not immediately available or it is outside of our business hours, seek emergency veterinary care for your dog.

- *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 movable swelling, opening of incision exposing tissues or organs below*

If you have any questions/concerns or your dog has any issues resulting from surgery, Animal Friends Alliance will schedule a freerecheck 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

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

Taft Hill Shelter: 2200 North Taft Hill Rd. Fort Collins, CO

Spay-Neuter Clinic/Vaccine Clinic: 2321 E. Mulberry Street Unit #3, Fort Collins, CO

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