



POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Date of Surgery:

Follow these instructions until:

1. No running, jumping, over active playing, swimming or other strenuous activity for 14 days. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. No baths for 10-14 days after surgery. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats kept indoors. Keep your pet quiet.
2. Check the incision site twice daily. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan or Bite-Not collar MUST be applied to prevent it.
3. All surgeries performed on female animals will have sutures that need to be removed 10-14 days post-surgery. Tails will remove these sutures at no charge. If you prefer you can have them removed at your regular veterinarian in 10-14 days.
4. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery although some pets may experience some nausea secondary to the anesthetic agents. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, or multiple bouts of diarrhea or vomiting are not normal. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery. If you have non-urgent concerns about your pet, please call Tails at (815) 758-2457 ext. 109. Phone calls are returned Monday-Friday.
5. Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give "junk food": table scraps, milk, or any other people food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.
6. We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination with your regular veterinarian 7-10 days after surgery. Have the incision checked for complete healing, and discuss additional needs, follow-up care and vaccination boosters.
7. If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call (815) 758-2457 ext. 114. **If there is a medical concern or an emergency it is recommend that you call your regular veterinarian or a 24-hour emergency veterinarian as Tails does not have a full-time veterinarian on site.** Your pet has received a green tattoo next to the incision (for male cats, it will be located on the abdominal skin). This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin. IT IS NOT AN EXTRA INCISION.

Tails Humane Society will treat, at our clinic, at no or minimal charge, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-operative instructions are followed in full but **Tails does not provide after-hours emergency care.** If you feel that you have followed the post-operative instructions and that your pet needs to be seen by one of our veterinarians because of concerns you have directly related to the surgery, call (815) 758-2457 ext. 109. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.