



POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Date of Surgery:

Follow these instructions until:

1. No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity for 7 to 10 days. Keep your pet quiet. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats must be kept indoors.
2. Clean 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 collar **MUST** be applied to prevent additional licking and chewing that could cause infection.
3. If your dog had a scrotal castration, they may have small amounts of drainage/discharge for up to three days.
4. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and your pet should be taken to your regular veterinarian. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery.
5. Do not change your pet's diet at the time, and do not give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.
6. We recommend that your pet receive a post-operative examination with your regular veterinarian 7 to 10 days after surgery, to have the incision checked for complete healing, to remove any skin sutures, and to discuss additional needs, follow-up care, and vaccination boosters.
7. If there are any questions or concerns related to the surgery, please contact 815-758-2457 ext. 102. If there is an emergency please contact your regular veterinarian.
8. Your pet received a green tattoo next to the incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin; **IT IS NOT AN EXTRA INCISION**. Tails Humane Society cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated. Our veterinarians recommend that you establish a wellness program for you pet with a regular, full-service veterinarian.

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. 102. 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.