

Your pet's care after surgery is extremely vital. Failure to follow post operative instructions may result in serious injury to your pet and costly veterinary bills. Pawmetto Lifeline will treat at our clinic, any post-op complications resulting directly from surgery at minimal, to no cost during normal business hours. Ultimately, you as the owner are responsible for your pet's post surgical care. To schedule a recheck please call/text our office at 803-727-8835 and follow the instructions given on our voicemail. You MUST call/text the recheck number to schedule a recheck or discuss concerns. Messages will be return 7 days a week between 9am and 7pm, messages left outside those hours may not be returned until the next morning.

You are responsible for your pet's post surgical care. Pawmetto Lifeline is NOT responsible for any medical rendered at an outside veterinary office.

- Please check the incision site on your pet when you get home – it is recommended to take a picture of your pet's incision site when you get home so you have a reference point. The way the incision looks today is the way it should look. Your pet's sutures are buried beneath the skin and will dissolve on their own. Your pet's incision should be checked twice a day. A thin line of glue is over the incision site to prevent bacteria and infection. This glue does dissolve in water and we want it to stay there as long as it can, so please keep your pet very dry for the next ten days – no baths, no rolling in wet grass, etc. The biggest reason that we see patients for rechecks is because they have been licking the incision site. Please do not put anything on the incision. Do not wash or clean the incision area.

- Your pet must wear an e-collar (cone) – if purchased - for a minimum of 10 days- 24 hours a day. Your pet is able to eat and sleep with an e-collar on. Our office sells e-collars for \$5 - \$20 (based on size). E-collars may also be purchased at PetSmart or Tractor's Supply. Your pet should not be permitted to lick their incision. Licking will result in severe damage to their incision, infection, and further surgery – at your cost.

- It is not unusual during the healing process to see a little "pea-sized" knot in or around the incision site. This will go away over time – it is the stitches repositioning as they dissolve. It can take a full 3 months for the site to flatten completely.
- There is a small green line on your pet's abdomen now. This is a permanent tattoo, an indication in our industry that your pet has been spayed/neutered.

- Your pet needs complete rest for the next 10 days. Though your pet will not act like it, they need rest, and it is your responsibility to make sure they get it. Do not allow running, jumping, or wrestling with other pets or people. Keep your pet in a clean, dry place for at least 4 to 5 days after surgery. Please do not allow your pet to jump on/off furniture. We also ask that your pet be leashed walked for bathroom breaks only – no long walks for at least two weeks after surgery.
- Anesthesia may cause upset stomach. Please restrict the amount of food and water your animals have access to immediately upon returning home. Your pet should be fed half of their normal diet the day after surgery. Do not be concerned if your pet does not want to eat for the first 24 hours following surgery. Anesthesia may cause vomiting and/or diarrhea within the first 48 hours after surgery.

- If your female was in heat, it will be indicated on your paperwork. While she can not reproduce, she will still give off hormones that attract males to her. Allowing your pet to mate following surgery can be life threatening. If your female was in heat and was spotting when she came into surgery she may still spot for up to two weeks.

- Pain medication – if purchased - should be given when your pet gets home, starting the morning after surgery. Please follow the instructions on your pet's medication label. Monitor for upset stomach. Do not give ANY human pain medications. ONLY veterinary prescribed pain meds should be used on animals.