



Post-Neuter Home Care Situations that do arise

- **Complications** - Notify the hospital at once if any of the following occur:
 - Vomiting after 24 hours at home.
 - Diarrhea.
 - Refusal to eat after 24 hours at home.
 - Signs of severe pain. (Some pain and discomfort is normal, however, especially in those pets that did not receive pain medication).
 - Excessive licking or chewing at the surgery site.
 - Bleeding or Discharge from the surgery site.
 - Gapping of the wound edges.
 - <Animal> acts odd or seems “not right” in any other way.

Lickers and Chewers - occasional pets will lick and chew at their incision site to excess. Since little tongues and teeth can do a lot of damage in just a short time, this **must** be prevented. If your pet continues to lick and/or chew at his incision site, it will be necessary to fit <sex> with an Elizabethan Collar until the wound is healed. These are available from us at nominal extra cost.

Chewed out stitches - occasional pets will manage to get their wounds open and infected despite our best efforts. This is nearly always due to over activity and/or due to excessive licking and chewing at the incision. Please contact the hospital at once if you feel <animal> may have opened or infected his incision. In most cases, the incision will not usually need to be re-sutured. An Elizabethan collar will also be required along with antibiotics to prevent infection while the wound heals, similar to a cut on your finger. Post-op rechecks are performed at no charge. Opened and infected incisions are repaired and treated at cost of injections, supplies, and antibiotics dispensed. The owner is responsible for any and all cost of injections, supplies, & antibiotics necessary as a result of any complication of the surgical procedure.

Bruising - occasional pets will experience more or less extensive bruising in the scrotal area after neutering. This is thought to occur as a result of “seeping” of severed microscopic blood vessels under the skin. This occurrence is more common in light colored pets, middle aged and older pets, and large breed dogs. Please contact the hospital at once if you feel <animal> may have excessive bruising. Despite its frightening appearance, the condition is apparently not very painful and generally resolves in about a week without treatment. Sometimes antibiotics will be prescribed to prevent chances of infection.

They forgot to neuter him! Normal post-operative swelling typically makes the scrotum appear full, perhaps even normal size, for about 24-48 hours after surgery. This is normal and does not indicate that <animal> was “forgotten”. This swelling typically subsides in due course and the scrotum begins to appear less full. In time the scrotum will contract (shrink up) and become less noticeable.

- <Animal> has recently undergone major surgery in order to surgically sterilize him. The procedure is called a “neuter” or castration. The items checked below were included in the procedure:

Pre-Anesthetic Lab Testing – screening, blood testing done to help identify unforeseen internal medical disorders. This allows anesthesia to be tailored to each pet, or postponed entirely if serious problems are detected.

Results **Normal** Results **Abnormal**

Continued...

Pre-Anesthesia ECG Screening - allows a better evaluation of the heart before anesthesia is induced to minimize Risks of anesthesia.

Results **Normal** Results **Abnormal**

=**Pre-Surgical Examination** - a physical examination, performed in order to help identify outwardly detectable medical problems which might indicate a need to modify or postpone anesthesia and/or surgery.

Hospitalization - the Doctor on the case checks on all surgery patients periodically, before and after surgery. They are also monitored by trained veterinary technicians who check their vital signs and tend to such basic needs as fresh water, clean comfortable towels to sleep on, etc.

General Anesthesia - required in order performing surgery in a safe, ethical, and humane manner.

Surgery - in this procedure, both testicles (the male reproductive organs) are surgically removed. This is typically a very straight forward surgery. Occasionally, however, a pet will have one or both testicles retained in the abdomen. This condition is called Cryptorchidism. These pets require more extensive surgery wherein the abdominal cavity must be opened and a search made for the undescended testicle.

Long-Acting Antibiotic Injection - to prevent post-operative infection.

Dismissal Pain Control Medication - in our observations, pets who receive post-operative pain relief seem to feel much better the next day. They eat more and they eat sooner, and therefore they seem to heal faster and return to normal sooner.

3 Day Pain Injection Given; Give Nothing Else For 3 Days

Oral Medication Recommended: _____

The procedures outlined to the left complete the technical aspects of neutering <animal>. But that doesn't mean we're through. The rest of the job belongs to you, the owner. By following the guidelines below you will be able to dramatically speed up <animal>'s recovery from surgery:

Offer small amounts of water at frequent intervals after dismissal. Do not feed <animal> until the next morning. Realize that appetite may not be completely back to normal for a day or two.

Outdoor cats should be confined indoors for the next ten (10) days so that the owner may more accurately and consistently monitor their recovery, and so that the surgical site may stay cleaner.

- Restrict running and jumping for the next ten (10) days.
- No swimming or bathing for the next ten (10) days.
- Do not give Aspirin, Tylenol, etc. Over-the-counter pain relievers can be poisonous to pets.

Stitches

Suture removal is required. Please return in 10 days for this service. There is no charge for this Service unless sedation is required.

Suture Removal is NOT required.

Comments: _____

