



POST-SURGICAL NEUTERING HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

NEUTERING (Castration) of your male pet is a procedure that involves the surgical removal of the testicles, which are the male sex organs.

Neutering a young pet at 6-12 months of age prevents development of undesirable characteristics making <animal> a more enjoyable family member. Mating and roaming behavior is minimized and decreased fighting and urine marking of furniture, plants, and walls will result. Neutering does not cause a pet to get fat or lazy. This comes from overfeeding and lack of exercise.

Neutering <animal> will change your pet's personality. Personalities do not fully develop until two (2) years of age. Aggressiveness often results from large amounts of male hormone—which is primarily produced in the testicles. Some small amounts are also produced in the adrenal glands—which accounts for the failure of some dogs to become less aggressive after the procedure. The personality will only get better after neutering, but some dogs may still show aggressiveness, especially if not neutered until later in life.

Occasionally a pet will have one or more testicles retained in the abdominal cavity, instead of normal placement in the scrotum. These pets will require more extensive surgery wherein the abdominal cavity must be opened and a search made for the undescended testicle. This condition is called Cryptorchidism.

POST-OPERATIVE HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Give only CLEAR LIQUIDS for 24 hours after surgery.** Anesthesia may cause nausea and vomiting for up to 24 hours after surgery. If no vomiting in 24 hours, feed regular diet.

Suture Removal:

- Sutures will dissolve. A return visit is not necessary.
- Suture Removal required in 10 days. (No charge unless sedation required.)

Notify the clinic for instructions if <animal> excessively licks the incision or the area appears swollen or infected.

A restraint collar is sometimes required. Chewing out the skin sutures is not a major complication. If this happens, we will need to prescribe antibiotics and let the wound heal as an “open wound.”

Notify the clinic if any of the following occur:

- Vomiting after 24 hours
- Diarrhea.
- Refusal to eat after 48 hours.
- Severe pain.
- Any evidence of bleeding.
- Continuous licking or pulling at the sutures.

NOTE: Our low-cost spay/neuter program is offered as a community service to help alleviate pet overpopulation problems. We make every effort to avoid complications, BUT unexpected problems can always occur. Complications might include infection, wound dehiscence, or chewing out sutures. **THE OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL CHARGES RESULTING FROM ANY COMPLICATION OF THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.**