

SURGICAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet's care while he or she recovers from surgery is crucially important to avoid complications.

Your pet has been under general anesthesia. It is important while recovering from anesthesia to keep your pet confined and warm. You may also want to keep your pet separate from other animals or small children for the first 24-48 hours after surgery as anesthetic drugs can alter behavior. Your pet may continue to be tired and lethargic as the anesthesia wears off.

Feeding: Nausea is a common side effect following surgery, so we recommend only offering a small amount (about half a normal portion) of food and water, if there has been no vomiting.

Activity: It is important to minimize your pet's activity for the next 10 to 14 days. Dogs should be allowed short, leashed bathroom walks only, and cats should remain indoors. Running, jumping, and playing can disrupt the healing process and lead to complications. Complications can include incision dehiscence and scrotal hematomas (large, bruised scrotum).

Incision monitoring: Please check the incision site twice daily for excessive swelling, bruising, redness, or oozing of any kind. If you elected to take home an Elizabethan collar (cone) to prevent your pet from licking or chewing at the incision site, it is important to keep the collar on for at least 10 to 14 days to prevent complications. Do not bathe your pet until the incision has healed (after 10-14 days). Do not put anything on the incision. The sutures used for your pet's surgery are absorbable and should dissolve in approximately 60 days. You do not need to have them removed unless a veterinarian has instructed you to schedule suture removal in 10 to 14 days.

Medications: A pain injection that should last for the first 12 hours was administered at the time of the surgery. You may elect for additional pain medication at the time of sterilization. If medications were dispensed for your pet, please give them according to the label directions. If you feel additional pain medication is needed, please contact your veterinarian. Do NOT administer any over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or Aspirin as these can be deadly.

You will be advised if a follow-up visit with your primary care veterinarian is recommended.

For pets who have been sterilized:

- You will notice a small green line tattooed near the incision site to indicate sterilization status. Skin glue has been applied over the tattoo site to allow the skin to heal.
- Neutered males can remain fertile for several weeks post-surgery, and females may still allow breeding for several weeks (although they can no longer get pregnant), so it is important that they be separated from other non-sterilized animals for a month to prevent accidental breeding or injury.

PLEASE NOTE: Recently neutered male dogs and cats can appear and feel un-neutered/intact for weeks after surgery. If after a few weeks you are concerned, please reach out directly to us or your veterinarian.

Please seek veterinary evaluation immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Pale gums
- Vomiting after the first 24 hours
- Persistent diarrhea
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating or defecating
- Labored breathing
- Severe pain, depression or weakness
- Refusal to drink water for more than one day
- Loss of appetite for more than two days
 - For males, severe swelling and bruising around the scrotum

Our clinic is open Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (excluding holidays). We are closed on Fridays and weekends. If you have any questions or concerns during the recovery period, please call 804-368-6232 or email us at snip@richmondspca.org during our operating hours. Please provide details about your pet's post-surgical condition in a message or email.

If you have any urgent medical concerns or after-hours emergency, please contact a local emergency care facility. Please be advised that we are not in a position to reimburse for outside veterinary services.

Local emergency care facilities include:

Virginia Veterinary Center (VVC)- Richmond
3312 W. Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23221
804-353-9000

Bluepearl (Dogwood) Pet Hospital
5918 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230
804-716-4700

Partner Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center
1616 Three Chopt Rd
Henrico, VA 23233
804-206-9122

Veterinary Referral & Critical Care
1596 Hockett Road
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
804-784-8722

Animal Medical Center
13821 Fribble Way
Midlothian, Va 23112
804-639-3900

Local urgent care facilities:

Better Pet Veterinary Urgent Care
7138 Mechanicsville Turnpike
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
(804) 442-2713

Partner Veterinary Urgent Care (Same location as above)
1616 Three Chopt Rd
Henrico, VA 23233
804-206-9122

UrgentVet- Midlothian
14300 Winterview Pkwy
Midlothian, VA
804-924-0404

UrgentVet- Carytown
3531 Ellwood Ave
Richmond, VA 23221
804-362-0202

UrgentVet- Short Pump
11521 W Broad St
Henrico, Va 23233
804-533-7733