



Community Veterinary Hospital
7865 NE 14th Place
Portland, Oregon 97211
Phone: 503-802-6800
www.oregonhumane.org

Caring for Your Pet After a Spay or Neuter

Your pet was surgically sterilized (female - "spayed", male - "neutered") today. There are no sutures that need to be removed from the incision, as the internal sutures and tissue glue will dissolve on their own. Females and males both receive a small green tattoo to indicate they have been sterilized.

Medications: Your pet was given long-acting pain medication in conjunction with the spay/neuter surgery. **DO NOT GIVE HUMAN MEDICATION TO YOUR PET.** It is dangerous and can be fatal. If you were given medication to administer to the animal at home, give as prescribed.

Diet/Feeding: Your pet can be offered food and water after returning home. Some pets may have a temporary loss of appetite but should start eating within 24 hours of surgery. Please let us know if any vomiting or diarrhea occurs, or if your pet does not defecate within a day or two.

Monitoring: As your pet allows, check the incision site twice a day to ensure it is healing properly. Minimal redness and swelling is normal the first few days. Signs of infection at the incision site can include green/yellow or reddish discharge, warm to the touch, very red in color, bad odor or something sticking out from the incision site. If you notice any of these signs, please contact us right away.

Activity Restriction: Please keep your pet quiet for the next 10-14 days. Avoid rough play and vigorous exercise following surgery as too much activity can cause the surgery site to open or become swollen. Pets should be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm during this recovery period. Your pet should not be bathed within 14 days of their surgery.

Elizabethan Collar: Please do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision site as this can lead to infection. To prevent complications, an e-collar can be purchased at your local pet supply store or community veterinary clinic; OHS does not provide e-collars. If your pet requires an e-collar, it is important that it is the appropriate size, fits snugly, and worn during all times your pet will be unsupervised. Retail staff can assist you with selecting the appropriate e-collar.

Vaccinations: If your pet received a vaccine today, please be aware of possible vaccine reactions. Most reactions are mild and include signs such as hives, facial swelling, red or itchy skin, vomiting and/or diarrhea. The most serious type of allergic reaction, known as anaphylaxis, can lead to difficulty breathing, shock and even death. If you note any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian immediately or take your pet to an emergency care vet. If your pet develops anaphylaxis due to a vaccine or medication, please notify your veterinarian before additional vaccines or medications are given. There may be steps we can take to prevent a reaction with future vaccines. *If this was your pet's first vaccine, they will need a booster vaccine in 3-4 weeks to make sure they are fully protected (FVRCP, FeLV, DA2PP only).* You can schedule this through the Community Veterinary Hospital or through your regular veterinarian.

In the event your pet is experiencing a medical problem related to surgery done at the OHS Community Veterinary Hospital, **please call (503) 802-6800 or send an email to communitymed@oregonhumane.org**. We are available by phone and email 7:30 am - 5:30 pm Sunday-Thursday. The OHS Community Veterinary Hospital will evaluate and may offer treatment free of charge for post-operative complications arising from surgery by appointment only. You may arrange services from another community veterinarian or emergency hospital; however, no payment or reimbursement will be made for medical care provided by another veterinarian or emergency clinic.

The OHS Community Veterinary Hospital will not be held responsible for complications arising from a failure to follow these post-operative instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not properly vaccinated.

Your pet will most likely be wearing a paper collar. Please remove this when you get home, these are temporary and not safe to use as a long-term collar.