



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

## **Caring for Your Dog After a Spay or Neuter**

Your dog 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.

**Your dog has been sent home with a pain medication (Rimadyl) and a mild sedative (Trazodone) to help them heal from surgery.**

- **PLEASE SEE YOUR MEDICATION'S LABEL(S) FOR DOSAGES AND WHEN TO START.**
- **RIMADYL MEDICATION STARTS A DIFFERENT DAY THAN THE TRAZODONE.** It is important that you **DO NOT** give Rimadyl the same day as surgery. This medication should be started the following morning.

**The Rimadyl may cause mild GI upset such as vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the stool, or a decrease in appetite. If you see these things, please stop the medication and call us. The Trazodone may cause mild sedation.**

**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 or the need for surgical repair. To prevent complications, an e-collar can be purchased when you pick up your pet or from your local pet supply store. If your pet requires an e-collar, it is important that it fits snugly and is worn during all times your pet will be unsupervised. 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 (DA2PP, Lepto).* You can schedule this through the Community Veterinary Hospital or through your regular veterinarian. Please note that there will be additional charges for these boosters

**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.**

In the event your pet is experiencing a medical problem related to surgery done at the OHS Community Veterinary Hospital, **please call or send an email.** We are available by phone and email 7:30 am - 5:30 pm Sunday-Thursday.

*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.*