



## Caring for your pet after spay/neuter surgery

Your pet was surgically sterilized (female/spayed, male/neutered). 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 have received a small, green tattoo within their incision to indicate they have been sterilized.

Please keep your pet quiet for the next 7-10 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 10 days of their surgery.

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 directed.

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 call our **Medical Team hotline at (503) 285-7722 ext. 414** or email [outpatient@oregonhumane.org](mailto:outpatient@oregonhumane.org).

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.

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.

In the event your pet is experiencing a medical problem related to surgery done at the Oregon Humane Society, please call (503) 285-7722 x414; we are available by phone 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM 7 days a week. The Oregon Humane Society will evaluate and may offer treatment free of charge for post-operative complications arising from surgery by appointment only Monday – Friday 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. You may arrange services from your community veterinarian or an emergency hospital; however, no payment or reimbursement will be made for medical care provided by your veterinarian or emergency clinic.

The Oregon Humane Society 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.**