

Spay Discharge Instructions

Thank you for bringing your pet to Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. Your pet has just been spayed. The long name for this procedure is ovariohysterectomy, which involves removal of the ovaries and uterus so your pet will not come into heat or get pregnant. There are also many other benefits to having your pet spayed, which include reducing her risk of mammary cancer by 7 times! The following are our recommendations for the optimal recovery of your pet:

Activity: Please keep indoors or closely confined for the next 7-10 days so the incision can stay clean and dry. No jumping, running, or rough play for 10-14 days. Leash walks only are recommended. After 10-14 days, your pet can return to normal activity. Excessive activity often leads to re-injury or serious complications that may necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your pet.

Anesthesia: When your pet is discharged, she may still be groggy from the anesthesia. She may appear depressed, wobbly and may tremble. She should be allowed to recover in a quiet room at home away from other pets. Check on her progress intermittently.

Food/Water: First offer only small amounts of water, and if she seems alert and hungry, offer small amounts of food (~ 1/3 of usual meal). Every pet recovers differently. Some pets may not want anything at all the first night. If your pet vomits, withhold food until the next morning. Call our office immediately if vomiting persists. By the next morning she should be alert and have a normal appetite. She can then be fed her normal volume of food.

Bathing: Do not bathe your pet for 10 days (until the incision is healed). The incision should stay clean and dry.

Monitoring: Check the incision daily for signs of excessive redness, swelling, or discharge. If any of these are noted, please contact us immediately. If your pet is licking or chewing excessively at the incision line, please contact us for placement of an Elizabethan collar.

Pain Medication: If you requested pain medication to be given, the medication should control pain for up to 48 hours following surgery. If medication has been prescribed and dispensed, please give this medication to your pet according to label instructions.

Thanks again for your continued support of Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. Your business is much appreciated. If you have questions or concerns regarding your pet's recovery, please contact us at (660)248-3382.