

After Sterilization Care

Staple Removal Date: _____

Medication Instructions: _____

Limit activities until your pet fully recovers from the anesthesia and resumes normal alertness and coordination. Do not allow him to jump on furniture, climb stairs or run in the yard. The anesthesia can affect different dogs in different ways. Some dogs may shake off the anesthesia easily. Others may be sleepy or lethargic for a few hours after surgery.

Keep your pet in a warm, quiet area of the home. A bedroom with a door that closes is a good choice. Place the dog bed or a folded blanket in a corner as a padded surface. You may notice trembling, shivering or salivating after the surgery. These behaviors will diminish as the anesthesia wears off.

Offer small amounts of food during the first 24 hours. The anesthesia may make your dog nauseated, and vomiting is common. Normal eating habits will return after 24 hours. If your dog still refuses food after 24 hours, consult your veterinarian.

Give any pain medication your veterinarian prescribed as needed. Do not give over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol (acetaminophen), which is toxic to animals.

Monitor the site of the surgery to ensure no infection develops. If you see redness or increasing swelling, contact your veterinarian.

Take your pet out on a leash periodically to relieve him, and then return him to his rest area. He might not have a bowel movement for the first 24 hours after surgery, but occasionally a dog may have some diarrhea. If this continues beyond the 24 hours, call your veterinarian.

Tips

- Keep other animals or children away from the patient for the first 24 hours to prevent excessive activity. After the anesthesia wears off, continue to prevent the dog from running, jumping, playing and swimming for at least a week, and

do not bathe him. Leash-walk the dog for exercise and when he needs to relieve himself. The incision needs the time to heal undisturbed.

- Your veterinarian may use dissolving stitches or stitches that require removal. Follow the vet's instructions regarding cleaning of the incision and follow-up visits.

Warnings

- Prevent the dog from licking the wound which can open up stitches and lead to bleeding and infection. If necessary, ask your veterinarian for an Elizabethan collar, a large cone that attaches around the dog's neck to prevent licking of the affected area.
- Contact your veterinarian if your dog displays depression, persistent vomiting or diarrhea, lack of appetite, bleeding or pain.

Local Veterinarians:

- **Veterinary Care Center of Laredo**
2406 Clark Blvd
Dr. Martin
956-722-3333

- **Laredo Animal Clinic**
6001 McPherson
Dr. Volt-Creamer
956-727-5031

- **South Texas Veterinary Hospital**
3808 McPherson
Dr. Santos
956-717-0905

- **Critter Care**
5837 Northgate Ln.
Dr. Leyendecker
956-753-2988