



SPAY & NEUTER SURGERY FAQ

What to know before surgery and during your pet's recovery

Helping pets stay healthy, safe and at home.

Whisker Mountain Animal Rescue works with local veterinarians to help make spay and neuter surgeries more accessible for pets and families in our communities. Always follow the specific written and verbal instructions provided by the veterinarian who treated your pet.

BEFORE SURGERY

DO

- Follow the veterinarian's feeding and fasting instructions carefully.
- Tell the veterinary team about all medications and supplements your pet takes.
- Report coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, or other signs of illness.
- Bring cats in a secure carrier and dogs on a secure leash.
- Bring vaccination records or paperwork requested by the veterinary provider.

DO NOT

- Do not give medications the morning of surgery unless instructed.
- Do not assume all pets have the same fasting requirements. Puppies, kittens, and some adult pets may receive different instructions.
- Do not allow your pet to roam where they could eat something without your knowledge.

AFTER SURGERY

ACTIVITY - 10-14 DAYS

- No running, jumping, rough play, or stairs when possible.
- Dogs: short-leash bathroom breaks only. Cats: safely confine indoors with easy access to food, water, and litter.

INCISION CARE

- Check the incision **twice daily**. Slight pinkness, bruising, or mild swelling can be normal initially.
- Keep it clean and dry. Prevent licking, chewing, or scratching; use the E-collar/protective device until healed, usually 10-14 days.
- Do not apply creams, ointments, alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide unless directed. Do not remove sutures or staples yourself.

BATHING

- **Do not bathe for 10-14 days**, or until the veterinarian confirms the incision is fully healed.
- No swimming, wading, showers, heavy-rain exposure, or other water exposure that could wet the incision.
- Spot-clean only if needed with a damp cloth, keeping water away from the surgical site. No shampoo, conditioner, or topical products near the incision.
- Resume normal bathing only after the incision is completely closed and dry and your veterinarian says it is safe.

MEDICATIONS & FEEDING

- Give prescribed medications exactly as directed. Never give human medications unless specifically instructed.
- If your pet vomits shortly after a dose or you miss a dose, contact the clinic for guidance.
- Offer a small meal the evening of surgery once fully awake and interested. Keep fresh water available; resume normal feeding the next day unless instructed otherwise.
- Contact the veterinarian if your pet has not eaten or drunk within 24 hours.

CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY IF YOU NOTICE

Excessive swelling or redness; pus, continuous bleeding, or an opening of the incision; persistent lethargy or weakness; pale gums or collapse; vomiting or diarrhea; refusal to eat/drink for more than 24 hours; difficulty breathing or persistent coughing; abdominal distension; uncontrolled pain; or inability/reluctance to urinate or defecate.

RECHECK: A recheck is generally recommended **10-14 days after surgery** so the veterinarian can evaluate the incision and determine when your pet can safely return to normal activity, including bathing.

Questions or concerns? Contact the veterinary clinic that performed your pet's surgery. | whiskermountain.org