



POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS - DOGS

We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from a client's failure to follow these instructions. We cannot be held responsible for contagious diseases for which your dog was not previously vaccinated. Your regular veterinarian must address any illness or injury that is not a direct result of surgery, but you may always call our clinic with questions and concerns. Should your cat experience a complication directly related to surgery we will see your pet immediately for a re-check at no charge. If there are any questions or concerns related to the surgery during the recovery period of 7-10 days, please call our clinic Monday through Friday between 9 – 5 p.m. at 203-437-7955. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your nearest 24-hour emergency clinic and call our clinic on the following business day. Should an emergency vet visit occur, you are responsible for payment to that veterinary hospital. We will consult with the emergency hospital to determine if the condition is a direct result of surgery; if so, we will reimburse you for your out-of-pocket costs only if it is determined by the H.O.P.E. Spay/Neuter Clinic's veterinarian to be surgery related and only if all post-operation instructions were followed.

- After surgery, your dog may experience minor personality changes such as crankiness, aggression, or sensitivity. These changes are due to anesthesia and should not last more than 24 hours after surgery.
- Check your dog's incision when you get home – what it looks after surgery is normal. Check the incision site two times a day, every day, for the next 10 days. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Females may have a small lump at the incision site – this is called a suture reaction and will go away on its own. If you see a lump and have concerns, please call our clinic.
- Restrict your dog's activity for 7-10 days. No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity for 7 to 10 days. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. No baths or grooming for 10 days after surgery.
- Dogs must be walked on a leash at all times for the next 7 days, no exceptions. Keep your dog quiet and calm.
- Lethargy (sleepiness), appetite loss, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing COULD occur up to 24 hours following surgery. If these symptoms last more than 24 hours you should call our clinic for a re-check.
- Your pet received a small green tattoo on his/her stomach. This is not an incision and you will not see it when the fur grows back. This indicates that your animal has been spay or neutered.
- Your dog's diet should remain unchanged for 7-10 days following surgery. No treats or people food (such as steak, chicken, McDonald's, etc.) should be given during this time. Such items will take longer to digest and can slow the healing process or mask surgical complications.
- If you have other animals or small children in your home keep them away from your dog for 48 hours after surgery.



- Never give your dog Tylenol or aspirin or other human pain killers or anti-inflammatory drugs! Over-the-counter medication can kill dogs. Use only vet-prescribed medication
- Your pet may have received Meloxicam. If so, you will see a blue stamp and/or the Meloxicam box checked on your pink sheet/take home sheet. Meloxicam is an anti-inflammatory/pain medication and will work for another 24 hours. It may stay in your cat's system for up to 30 days. If you bring your cat to a vet FOR ANY REASON in the next 30 days you MUST bring the pink sheet to let the vet know your cat has had Meloxicam on the date of surgery. Something another vet may do could interact with the Meloxicam.
- If you see your pet licking the incision, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you purchase an e-collar (a cone for around the head) and put it on your pet immediately. You may also purchase Bitter Orange lotion from a pet store and apply to the area around the incision site, though an e-collar is the best preventative. If this instruction is not followed, the incision can be licked open and become infected. This is considered self trauma and H.O.P.E. Spay/Neuter Clinic will not cover your cost if it leads to a trip to your regular vet or to an emergency hospital. E-collars and Bitter Orange can be purchased at any pet supply store. Please make sure you purchase an e-collar that fits your pet properly so he/she can eat, drink and go to the bathroom with ease.