

### Cat Aftercare Instructions:

**Tonight, you may offer your cat(s) a small amount of food and water and litter box** - Do not be alarmed if your cat has little or no appetite. Remember, your cat just had surgery! Your cat's appetite should return to normal tomorrow.

**Your pet will need to be watched closely and have special care after surgery** - Please keep your cat in a warm, quiet, and safe place indoors tonight, away from other pets, children and the activities of the household. Please keep your cat away from stairs until fully awake. Be sure your cat has easy access to a litter box. Watch your cat carefully to detect any potential problems.

**Restrict your cat's activity for 7 days following surgery** - Discourage running, jumping, climbing, and chasing toys. Excessive activity can lead to tissue swelling, fluid accumulation under the incision or the incision opening. These conditions may or may not require additional surgery at **your expense**.

**Recovery time can vary depending on age, weight, and metabolism of your pet** - Your cat may be groggy for the rest of the evening but should be acting normally tomorrow.

**Look at the incision daily** - A small amount of swelling, dried blood or bruising around the incision may be normal the first few days following surgery. You may also see dried glue on the incision; this will flake off in a couple days. Some cats develop a firm, non-painful lump under the incision. This is inflammatory tissue forming around the suture buried under the skin. This will go away by itself in 2-3 weeks. If your cat seems unresponsive or in excessive pain after you take him home Contact Hawk Creek Animal Shelter at 320-235-7612. There is staff there to answer questions and call you back from 7am to 7pm.

**NOTE:** If you allow your cat to resume too much activity after surgery, or to lick/scratch at the incision, your cat risks developing a scrotal hematoma (swelling of the scrotum), a seroma (fluid accumulation under the incision), infection or dehiscence (opening of the incision). If your cat's over-activity results in the aforementioned complications, any further treatments or medications will be **your responsibility**.

**Sutures:** Are absorbable and DO NOT need to be removed

**Pain medication information:** Your cat received a dose of Onsior prior to discharge. This is an anti-inflammatory/anti-fever medication that is effective for up to 24 hours in cats.

### Dog Aftercare instructions:

**Your dog or puppy will need special care during recovery from surgery.** Please keep your dog in a warm, quiet, and safe place indoors tonight, away from other pets, children, and the activities of the household. Please keep your dog away from stairs and slippery surfaces until fully awake. Watch your dog carefully to prevent accidents.

**Restrict your dog's activity for 7 days following surgery.** Short leash walks to go to the bathroom only and no off-leash activity. Excessive activity can lead to tissue swelling, fluid accumulation under the incision, or the incision opening up. These conditions may or may not require additional surgery at **your expense**. If you need to bathe your dog, dab gently around the incision site with warm soapy water and a soft cloth.

**Tonight, offer your dog(s) a small amount of food and water.** If you offer too much food or water, your dog may vomit. Don't be alarmed if your dog has little or no appetite. Remember, your dog just had surgery! Your dog's appetite should return to normal tomorrow.

**Some dogs take longer to recover than others due to breed, age, weight, amount of body fat, and metabolism.** The effects of anesthesia can last hours to days, and the anesthetic drugs used for surgery can cause both diarrhea and constipation. Your dog may be groggy for the rest of the evening, but should be acting normally tomorrow. Increased urination or loss of housetraining is common the first 24 hours after anesthesia. Crying or whining the first evening usually indicates anxiety, not pain.

**Monitor your dog's incision daily.** A small amount of swelling, dried blood, or bruising around the incision may be normal the first few days following surgery. You may also see dried glue on the incision; this will flake off in a couple days. *Some female dogs develop a firm, non-painful lump under the incision. This is inflammatory tissue forming around the suture buried under the skin. This will go away by itself in 2-3 weeks.* If your dog seems unresponsive or in excessive pain after you take it home, or if you see signs of excessive redness, other discoloration, or discharge around the incision, contact the HCAS immediately at 320-235-7612. There is staff there to answer questions and call you back from 7am to 7pm.

**Keep in mind:** If you allow your dog or puppy to resume too much activity after surgery, or to lick or scratch at the incision, your dog risks developing a scrotal hematoma (swelling of the scrotum), a seroma (fluid build-up under the incision), infection, or dehiscence (opening of the incision). If your dog's over-activity results in one of these complications, any further treatments or medications will be **your responsibility**.

**Sutures:** DO NOT need to be removed in 10 days.

**Medication instructions:** Please start pain medication the morning after surgery.