



Spay & Neuter Hawaii – Post Op Information/Instructions
Spay & Neuter Clinic
87-120 Kaukamana Rd – Maili

SURGICAL PROCEDURE

• Your pet had major surgery with general anesthesia, which means he/she was unconscious during the operation. • In female dogs and cats, the uterus and ovaries are removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall. • In male dogs and cats, the scrotum is not removed, only the testicles. Male cats may appear as if they still have testicles. This is normal – the swelling should subside gradually through the recovery period.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU BRING YOUR PET HOME

• We strongly recommend you keep your pet confined in a crate or small room the night after surgery. • Your pet may be groggy when you get home, experiencing a "hang-over" from the anesthesia. Your pet will typically require 18-24 hours to recover from the general anesthesia. Most animals will be back to normal when the anesthesia leaves their system entirely. • Your pet may sleep much more than normal for 18-24 hours following surgery. • Your pet may be a little agitated or aggressive due to the after-effects of anesthesia. Avoid handling the animal too much as he/she may try to bite or scratch you. • Isolate the animal from children and other pets. He may be more prone to snapping or nipping at other pets and even children due to the after-effects of anesthesia. • Your pet may have poor balance. This will make climbing stairs or getting in and out of the car more difficult than usual, so be ready to assist. Help your dog in and out of the car as sudden movements can damage his stitches. Lift the dog by wrapping your arms around the dog's chest/front legs and rear/back legs. • Make sure your cat has a comfortable spot to sleep in a confined, secure, quiet place. Once she's settled, she's likely to sleep it off and will be fine upon awakening.

INCISION SITE

• What you see on the day of surgery is what we consider normal. There should be little to no drainage. A very small amount of redness/swelling at incision may occur. • If animal allows, check incision site once daily for one week. Check for excessive redness, swelling, discharge, blood or if incision site is open. • Do not clean or apply any topical ointment to the incision site.

SUTURES

• Unless you are told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures. • All sutures are absorbable on the inside.

FEEDING

• Anesthesia tends to make animals experience nausea, so your pet may not want to eat when he/she gets home after surgery. • You need to re-introduce food slowly. Offer a small amount of food and water as soon as animal is fully awake. If vomiting occurs, wait until the next day to give more food. Provide your normal amount of food and water to your pet on the day after surgery. • Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food for a period of one week. This could mask post-surgical complications. • Your pet's appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR BITE THE INCISION

• Licking or biting the incision could cause the wound to re-open and become infected. To keep your pet from licking the incision during healing process we recommend an E-collar be worn during the recovery period. You may purchase an E-collar from PetSmart, PETCO, etc.

• Other products like Lick Guard or Bitter Apple are topical ointment and sprays that may also be purchased at PetSmart, PETCO or Walmart. These products have a bitter taste that deters licking and chewing.

IN HEAT

If your female dog or cat was in heat at the time of surgery, you must keep her away from un-neutered males for at least two weeks. While she is unable to become pregnant, she will still attract intact males for a short period of time.



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ACTIVITY

• The healing process takes 7-10 days. • Any strenuous activity could disrupt the healing process. • Some animals are active after surgery, while others are quiet. It is very important that you limit your pet's activity during the healing process. • Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. • No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity during the 7-10 day recovery period. • Do not bathe your pet or have it groomed during the recovery period. • When outdoors dogs should be on a leash and taken for short walks only for next 10 days. • Non-feral cats should be kept indoors for the next 10 days. • Keep animal away from all hazards (including stairs).

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

Spaying and neutering are very safe surgeries; however, complications can occur. Redness and swelling should resolve within several days. Please contact your veterinarian immediately if redness and swelling persists or if you notice any of the following:

• Pale gums • Depression • Vomiting • Diarrhea • Discharge or bleeding from the incision • Difficulty urinating • Labored breathing • Decreased appetite • Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours

The Hawaii SPCA and Spay Neuter Hawaii cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions or for contagious diseases in post-operative period.

Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries.

EMERGENCIES

If there is an emergency please call your regular veterinarian!

**PLEASE EMAIL, TEXT or CALL Kat at SPAY NEUTER HAWAII after you see your Vet:
spayneuter808@gmail.com (808) 554-5658 – (TEXT IS FASTEST)**

AGAIN, IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY THEN TAKE YOUR PET TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY VETERINARY HOSPITAL

MICROCHIP INFORMATION

If your animal has not been previously micro-chipped, we have implanted a Microchip today. A copy of his or her number will be given to you by the staff. Please make sure you keep this information in a safe place for future reference. The microchip is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. There may be some swelling or tenderness in this area for the next few days. Sometimes microchips can migrate over the course of months or years. Periodically have the chip checked to see if it is moving around.

The chip number (whether implanted by us or already existing) will be registered, as a courtesy to our clients, at the nonprofit free, on-line microchip registry at www.foundanimals.org.

We also keep the number in the patient database. This way, if your animal is lost or stolen, the microchip can be scanned by animal control or any veterinary clinic to identify him or her and contact you.

Your information will be kept confidential in our system. Be sure to keep us informed of any address or telephone changes and other contact information.

If you are unreachable The Hawaii SPCA/Spay Neuter Hawaii, designates itself as the alternate contact in all microchip implantations done at our clinics.