

Directions for care of your pet:

1. Your pet just had surgery today. Your pet should be kept in a warm, quiet, safe place for the next 24-48 hours (preferably confined to one room in the house). You are allowed to attend to and care for your pet in this room, but please keep your pet isolated from other animals for the next 24 hours. Your pet just had surgery, so he/she also just had anesthesia—this means that loud noises and bright lights may be alarming or distressing to your pet. Again, please keep your pet confined to a warm, quiet, safe room for the next 24-48 hours. (PLEASE DO NOT keep your pet confined to his/her carrier for the evening—your pet needs access to food, water, and a litter box—see below.)
2. Please provide your pet's regular food, water and a litter box while he/she recovers in this confined room. Food right away. Water right away. Litter box right away. Please do not withhold food until tomorrow.
3. It will take roughly 10-14 days for your pet's incision to heal. You can purchase an e-collar at a pet supply store if you see your pet licking his or her surgery site. It is important to keep the surgical area dry for this time. Please refrain from bathing your pet during this time period. Please do not attempt to clean the surgical site with ANY products—you will harm the surgical site if you attempt to wash the area.
4. It will take roughly 10-14 days for your pet's incision to heal. It is important to keep your pet quiet during this time. Please refrain from excessive activity during this time period (no wand toys, no laser pointers, etc.). Your pet can return to “normal” activity within a couple of days, but please, no excessive play.

IF your pet was SPAYED today:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CAT EVERY DAY!

1. Your pet has sutures but they are internal—there is no need to have them removed. The sutures will dissolve over time. All you can see is a shaved abdomen with an incision with glue over the top. This glue will peel off over the next week or so and that is OK.
2. This incision should always remain dry. If you see any liquid coming from this incision you should consult your veterinarian—your concern would be an infection.
3. If you see a swelling at the incision site it is most likely a suture reaction or a seroma (both benign)--both will take up to 2 weeks to resolve. If a swelling should remain after 2 weeks, you should consult your veterinarian (your concern would be a hernia).
4. If your pet should “act sick” during the recovery period, you should consult your veterinarian.

IF your pet was NEUTERED today:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CAT EVERY DAY!

1. Your pet has no sutures. There are 2 open incisions over your pet's scrotum. These wounds will heal by themselves—please do not clean/wipe/soak these incisions.
2. If your pet is under 6 months of age—your pet may (probably not) have a little drainage from these incisions and there may (probably not) be some swelling (minimal). This is OK, but the drainage should not last longer than the evening. (This is the best time to neuter your pet—minimal to absent post-surgical complications). If you see bleeding, please consult an emergency clinic.

3. If your pet is 6-9 months of age—your pet may have a little drainage from the incisions and it may be blood tinged—this is not bleeding. This drainage should not continue past the evening. There may be some swelling, but this will abate over the next 14 days or so. If you see bleeding please consult an emergency clinic.
4. If your pet is over 10 months of age—your pet will likely have some drainage this evening. This drainage will be blood tinged. There should be no drainage past the evening. There will be swelling. This will take quite a while to go away—your pet has been neutered and his testicles have been removed! Your pet will also be sore over the next couple of days— please do not administer any over the counter medications (only a veterinarian should dispense medicines to animals). If your pet has continued pain in 7 days you should consult your veterinarian (your concern would be infection). If you see any malodorous discharge weeping from the incision you should consult your veterinarian—your concern would be infection. Again, swelling is normal in large cats—you should only worry if there is discharge or excessive pain (your concern would be infection). If you see bleeding please consult an emergency clinic.
5. If your pet should “act sick” during the recovery period, you should consult your veterinarian.

Additional medications:

Other concerns for your cat:

1. Your pet was vaccinated against RABIES today. This vaccine is “good for” one year. You should consult with your veterinarian about boosting your pet's rabies vaccination. At this appointment you can discuss the pros and cons for the one year vaccine versus the three year vaccine.
2. If your cat goes outdoors, your cat will need monthly flea/tick protection. If your cat stays indoors, your cat may need monthly flea/tick protection. You should discuss with your veterinarian about safe and effective flea prevention—please do not purchase any medications (oral or topical) without consulting your veterinarian first.
3. Please have a discussion with your veterinarian about any other vaccinations necessary for your cat's continued health—distemper, FeLV, FIV, etc. If your cat goes outdoors, your cat will need an FeLV vaccine. If your cat stays indoors, your cat may not need an FeLV vaccine. Your local veterinarian is best able to provide you with the appropriate information. Your vet will also at this time be able to provide a test for feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)—these are 2 very important viruses that a cat can harbor.
4. Please discuss deworming your cat with your veterinarian. There are DOZENS of gastrointestinal parasites that can harm your pet (some of these parasites are contagious to humans). There are different medications to combat the different parasites. Your local veterinarian is best able to provide the information and treatment required for the adequate care of you cat.

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