



201 Alabama Street . San Francisco, CA 94103 . (415) 554-3030

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Home Care

- Keep your cat confined to the house for seven (7) days, dogs leash walks only for seven (7) days. For the first 24 hours after surgery, it is especially important to keep them warm and quiet.
- If your pet seems interested, offer a small amount of food and water after 7:00 p.m. If your pet is still drowsy, or if he/she vomits, wait until the following morning to offer food. If your pet keeps this down, you may repeat another mini meal in an hour or so. If your pet is not eating or drinking by the next afternoon, please call us.
- Pets under four months of age should eat as soon as you get home. If your pet does not eat his/her regular food, try feeding canned or baby food to entice him/her to eat.
- No swimming or bathing allowed for ten (10) days after surgery.
- Do not permit any rough handling or exercise of your pet by anyone for seven days.
- Be especially careful to warn children not to touch the pet's stomach.
- Discourage biting, scratching, or licking at the incision site; it can cause a great deal of inflammation or oozing around the site. If your pet is licking at the incision, please use the e-collar that has been dispensed or return to the clinic to obtain one.
- **For male cats**, use newspaper instead of litter for the first 24 hours after surgery.

Things To Watch For

Anesthetic Effects:

Cat owners will notice some head bobbing and weaving, and your cat's eyes may have a glassy appearance. S/he may also be a little quiet but should return to normal the next day.

Dog owners may notice that their dog shivers, trembles, or salivates. Your dog may break his/her housetraining so you may want to keep him/her confined to the bathroom or kitchen until the anesthetic has worn off.

Bleeding / Bruising:

There may be a small amount of blood seeping from the incision. If this persists, please call us. Bruising under or near the spay site is normal, this should resolve itself, but if it seems extensive, please call.

Licking:

DO NOT let your pet lick the incision site. All pets, with the exception of male cats, will go home with an e-collar. Your pet needs to wear this while the incision is healing.

Stitches:

There is no need to return to The SF/SPCA clinic for suture removal; the sutures that we use are self-dissolving. Some female cats and dogs develop swelling about the size of a walnut around or under the incision site within the first week. It is usually a reaction to the underlying tissue sutures. This is **NOT** a problem and can take up to a month to resolve, but if the swelling increases or other abnormalities are noted, please call us.

The Clinic has veterinary staff available six (6) days a week (Monday - Saturday). Call **554-3030** between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you choose to seek other Veterinary care during this period, *the financial responsibility will be solely yours*. Because we are a non-profit, low-cost clinic, we cannot be financially responsible for medical care provided at other veterinary hospitals.

Check everyday to make sure the incision area is not inflamed and the stomach is not bloated. Any problems **directly related to the surgery incision** will be treated and covered by the SF/SPCA Spay/ Neuter Clinic. If you observe problems *after 7 days*, please contact us for an evaluation of your case.