



Spay/Neuter Clinic Instruction Sheet
CONTRA COSTA ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
4800 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553
Martinez Shelter 925-608-8420



Important Information About Your Pet's Health

Taking Care of Your Pet After Surgery

All animals are to be picked up by a legal adult between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. on the day of surgery. Pick ups after 4:00pm will incur a late pick up fee to be paid at pick up.
*****Please be aware there is no staff on duty after 4:00 p.m.*****

ALL ANIMALS:

1. Anesthesia and pain medications given to your pet may cause mild lethargy or grogginess for 12-24 hours.
2. Water should be available at all times. Offer a 1/3 normal meal about 2-3 hours after getting home. Some animals may not want to eat or may vomit. If so, offer food again in the morning.
3. There are generally no external stitches. If there are stitches that need to be removed, you will be advised and an appointment scheduled for removal.
4. Your pet has been sent home with an e-collar (other than male cats). The e-collar should remain on for the next 10 days to prevent trauma to the incision which can be life-threatening in some cases. If your pet damages the e-collar, new ones can be purchased at most pet stores.
5. Please DO NOT give any other medication without first consulting a veterinarian.
6. **Your pets activity should be strictly restricted for the next 10 days. This means: no running, jumping, swimming, dog park, day care, long walks, hiking, bathing or other vigorous activities. Short walks to go to the bathroom are acceptable.**
7. Bleeding or discharge from any incision should be considered abnormal. Please call us if noted.
If you have any concerns, call Contra Costa Animal Shelter Medical Services at [925-608-8428](tel:925-608-8428) during business hours: M-Sat 8AM-5PM.

DOGS:

1. Most dogs exhibit no effects of the anesthesia except for some mild sedation. They should be allowed to recover the evening of surgery in a quiet area **alone and away from other pets and small children.**
2. Healing takes approximately 10 days during which time your dog should be confined and activity strictly limited. (See 6 above)

CATS:

1. In cats, the effects of anesthesia may not dissipate for 24 hours. Responses to external stimuli (light, noise, and movement) may be exaggerated, and the cat should be allowed to recover this evening in a small quiet, darkened area **alone and away from other pets and small children.**
2. Cats should be kept indoors for up to ten days following surgery. Activity should be restricted for at least ten days. (See 6 above)
3. Incision area may show some temporary swelling about the size of a walnut in the female cat, which rarely requires any treatment.
4. Male cats rarely bother their incision site. If you do notice your cat licking at the incision, we advise that you purchase an e-collar at your local pet store.

All animals are examined before release, so the need for further veterinary services is rare. If you are worried about the incision or your animal's behavior, please call us. Fees for rechecks and medications may apply.

If it is during business hours (M-F 8AM – 5PM), call us at [925-608-8428](tel:925-608-8428). We have medical staff on duty that will be able to assist you with any questions or problems. If you need to utilize the emergency clinic, please call Sage Veterinary Emergency in Concord at 925-627-7243 or Pets Referral Center in Berkeley at 510-548-6684. **NOTE: If you choose to utilize an outside veterinarian or emergency clinic for follow up examination or treatment, fees incurred will not be reimbursed by Contra Costa County.**