



Animal Shelter Inc Clinic
17 Laurelwood Road
Sterling, Massachusetts 01564
Tel: 978-422-8449 Email: clinic@sterlingshelter.org

Discharge Instructions

For Dogs and Cats

Activity - No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity for the next 10-14 days. All pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. Do not bathe your pet. Dogs must be leash walked. Ideally dogs should be crated while recovering to prevent strenuous activity.

Incision - Visually check the incision site twice daily. Redness and swelling should be minimal. If your cat or dog had a scrotal castration, they may have small amounts of discharge/drainage for up to three days.

E-Collar - Your pet MUST wear the provided e-collar for 7-10 days. The most common problem post operatively is infection due to licking/chewing of incision site. *If you feel the e-collar is too small for your pet - you should get a larger one ASAP (you can purchase these at most large chain pet supply stores or your primary veterinary clinic).*

Sutures - Your pet does not have external sutures. All sutures are absorbable on the inside and the very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue. **Do not clean or apply topical ointment to the incision site.**

Feeding - Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Offer a small meal the night after surgery then resume your pet's normal feeding schedule the following day. **Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food during this time.** Lethargy, diarrhea, and/or vomiting lasting more than 24 hours after surgery are not normal.

Tattoo - Your pet has received a small green tattoo next to their incision to indicate they have been surgically sterilized. This tattoo is a scoring of the skin, not an extra incision.

Pain Management - Your pet received injectable pain medication post operatively. Canines go home with 3 days of oral pain medication, please start administering this medication the morning after surgery and give with food.

Follow Up - We strongly recommend that your pet receive a post operative examination with **your regular veterinarian in 10-14 days** to ensure complete healing of incision and to discuss any additional medical needs.

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery, please call the clinic at 978-422-8449, Monday - Thursday from 7:30 am – 5:00 pm. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular veterinarian or emergency animal hospital nearest you.

Animal Shelter Inc. will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-operative instructions are followed in full. **Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery.** Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We **cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions**, or for contagious disease for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.