

# Post-Operative Instructions

1. **Every animal 3 months and older has received a pain relieving dose of Metacam, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) at the time of surgery (in addition to narcotics during surgery).** NSAID relief lasts for 24 hours.
2. **NO running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity for the next 7 to 10 days.** Keep your pet quiet. Pets MUST be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats must be kept indoors.
3. **Check the incision site twice daily.** There should be no drainage- redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar (E-collar) MUST be applied to prevent additional licking and chewing that could cause infection. Chew Guard/Bitter Apple spray may also be applied to the area- this is available for purchase in our retail area.
  - a. Female dogs and cats may have a slight bulge at the incision- this is normal, as long as it is not accompanied by pain, redness, or discharge. The bulge is a slight internal suture reaction. As the sutures dissolve over time, the bulge will go down.
4. **Adult male dogs have been castrated/neutered through a scrotal incision. It is normal to see small amounts of blood-tinged drainage/discharge for 1-3 days after surgery.** The incision is purposely closed in a way that allows a small opening for draining during the healing period. This is done to reduce the chance of other more significant complications like swelling, bruising, or pain of the scrotum. Please keep your pet away from light colored flooring, furniture, or bedding during this time.
5. **Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours after surgery.** Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and your pet should be taken to your regular veterinarian. Some dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery due to irritation from the endotracheal tube placed during surgery- this should resolve on its own without treatment.
6. **Do NOT change your pet's diet at this time.** Do not give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other "people food" during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications.
7. **We recommend that your pet receive a post-operative examination with your regular veterinarian 7 to 10 days after surgery.** The purpose of this recheck is to check the incision for complete healing, remove any skin sutures (if necessary), and to discuss any additional needs and follow-up care.
8. **If your pet received a vaccine at our clinic other than rabies, please discuss a "booster" vaccine with your regular veterinarian.** Canine distemper/parvo vaccine and feline distemper vaccine need to be "boostered" 3 to 4 weeks after administration of the first vaccine for maximum effectiveness.
9. **If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call our clinic at (734) 662-4365.** If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular veterinarian or reach an emergency veterinary hospital.
10. **Your pet received a superficial, permanent tattoo next to the incision to indicate sterilization.**

**The Humane Society of Huron Valley Veterinary Clinic will treat, at minimal cost, any post-operative 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. HSHV Veterinary Clinic will not be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-operative instructions or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.**