



Central PA Humane Society Spay & Neuter Clinic

After Surgery- Discharge Instructions

1. **Discharge time is between 9am-2pm.** Please plan to pick up your pet or appoint a trusted person when you are notified your pet is ready. If you do not retrieve your pet at this designated time, they may be considered abandoned and will incur a \$20 daily boarding fee for a 3-day period and any additional costs associated with care. After this time, CPHS shall have discretion to deal with the Animal as it deems appropriate.
2. Keep your pet in a warm, quiet room, separated from children and other pets. Avoid access to stairs and furniture to prevent injury. Cats should be kept indoors. They will be sleep and sedate.
3. Your pet may have food and water. Offer small portions if they are interested. Do not give your pet a large meal or unusual foods at this time. Your pet can return to a normal feeding schedule tomorrow morning.
4. Your pet may have loss of appetite, vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours following surgery. If these side effects are excessive or last longer than 24 hours, contact a veterinarian.
5. Check your pet's incision site daily for signs of redness, bruising or swelling. A small amount of this is to be expected, but if it becomes excessive, contact a veterinarian.
6. Check your pet's incision site daily for discharge. A small amount of clear or slightly red discharge from the incision site is normal during the first 24-72 hours- especially for males. If this becomes excessive or the fluid changes color or has an odor, contact a veterinarian.
 - You may cleanse the area around the incision with a damp wash cloth as needed. Do not apply anything directly to the incision.
7. You must restrict your pet's exercise for 14 days following surgery. This means no running, jumping, or playing. Failure to do so will lead to inflammation, infection and failure of the stitches.
 - Your dog should be walked on a 6-foot leash for bathroom purposes only.
 - Cats should be discouraged from playing strenuously, jumping on objects, running up-stairs, etc. It may be best to keep them in a small room or large dog crate. Make sure there is a litter box with easy access.
 - If you are unable to keep your pet calm during this healing time, we have sedation medication.
8. Do not allow your pet to lick, chew, rub, or scratch at the incision site. This can lead to inflammation, infection, and failure of the stitches.
 - The best way to prevent or stop licking and chewing is to purchase a head collar ("e-collar") from the Wellness Center or pet supply store.
9. Only give the pain medications provided. Over the counter pain medications are not safe.
 - If your pet has dark, tar-like, or bloody stool, or is having severe vomiting/ diarrhea, please stop the pain medication and contact a veterinarian.
10. Your pet has internal stitches that will dissolve. There are no stitches to be removed. Occasionally you may notice a knot at one end- this will also dissolve.
11. If your pet is experiencing surgical complications mentioned above and/ or pale gums; weak; depressed, wobbly; difficulty urinating/ defecating; or labored breathing, please contact CPHS Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 8:30am-2:00pm. Costs for medication and treatment may be incurred. If it is outside these hours, please contact your veterinarian. If you are not established with a local veterinarian and your pet's need is urgent, please contact CP Vets at 814.237.4670 or Metzger Animal Hospital at 814.237.5333

Central Pennsylvania Humane Society: 814.942.5402

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