



POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS - CATS

We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from a client's failure to follow these instructions. Should your cat experience a complication directly related to surgery we will see your pet for a re-check at no charge within 10 days of surgery. If there are any questions or concerns related to the surgery during the recovery period of 7-10 days, please call our clinic Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at 203-437-7955. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your nearest 24-hour emergency clinic and call our clinic on the following business day. Should an emergency vet visit occur, you are responsible for payment to that veterinary hospital. We will consult with the emergency hospital to determine if the condition is a direct result of surgery; if so, we will reimburse you for your out-of-pocket costs only if it is determined by the H.O.P.E. Spay/Neuter Clinic's veterinarian to be surgery related and only if all post-operative instructions were followed.

- **If you picked up your cat ON THE SAME DAY OF SURGERY:** your cat may be grouchy, aggressive or quiet. These personality changes are temporary and are due to the anesthesia and pain medication. His/her normal personality will return in 24-48 hours. Keep young children and other pets away from cat(s) for 48 hours after surgery. Your cat may be wobbly while he/she is recovering from anesthesia. Put your cat in a safe room for the night. The room must be well ventilated, quiet, and comfortable. Your cat may be wobbly while he/she is recovering from anesthesia and should be kept away from stairs for the first 24 hours after surgery. Check your cat often for the next 6 to 8 hours while the anesthesia wears off. Your cat should not be around other animals or small children for the first night after surgery. Give your cat water and offer a small amount of food. If you picked up a kitten under 5 months old, feed the normal amount tonight, at your kitten's regular feeding times.
- **If you picked up your cat the morning AFTER surgery:** when you get home, put your cat in a safe room until you can monitor your cat closely to make sure he/she is doing well. Feed your cat his/her normal diet when you get home. Please keep your cat away from stairs and other household hazards for the next 24 hours.

For all cats:

- When you get your cat home, check the surgery site. What it looks like the morning after surgery is normal.
- After surgery, your cat may experience minor personality changes such as crankiness, aggression, or sensitivity. These changes are due to anesthesia and should not last more than 24-48 hours after surgery.
- Your cat may have an upset stomach from the anesthesia and may not want to eat until the day after surgery. Watch your cat closely to monitor eating and drinking habits. By the day after surgery your cat should be eating close to his/her normal amounts.



- Your cat should be using his/her litterbox within 24 hours after surgery. You must monitor your cat's litterbox behavior to make sure he/she is urinating and defecating.
- Your pet's diet should stay the same for 10 days after surgery. No treats or people food (such as steak, chicken, McDonald's, etc.) should be given during this time. Such items will take longer to digest and can slow the healing process or mask surgical complications.
- Check the incision every day, two times a day, for the next 10 days. Look for any swelling or drainage, redness, oozing. There are no sutures (stitches) to remove. Please call us if you are concerned about the incision. Some female cats will develop a hard small lump at the surgery site. This is caused by a slight reaction to the stitches. It will go away in a few weeks, but please call us if you have concerns. Male (boy) cats have no sutures but you should monitor for swelling and discharge.
- Never give your cat Tylenol, aspirin, human pain killers or anti-inflammatory drugs! Use only vet-prescribed medication.
- Cats MUST stay indoors for the next 10 days where they can stay clean, dry and heal quietly from surgery.
- Physical activity must be kept to a minimum for 7-10 days. There should be no running, jumping, or other strenuous activity. Please restrict activity to let your cat heal and prevent injury.
- Vomiting, diarrhea, or an increased or decreased appetite may occur for the next 24 hours after surgery. If this continues for more than 24 hours, please call the H.O.P.E. Clinic at 203-437-7955 or see the above instructions for after-hours and weekend emergencies.
- A small green tattoo (a line) has been applied to the stomach of all animals. This is not an incision and you will not see it when the fur grows back. This indicates that your animal has been spay or neutered.
- Incision sites must stay dry for 10 days. No baths for two weeks and no laying in the tub, shower or sink.
- Your pet may have received Meloxicam. If so, you will see a blue stamp and/or the Meloxicam box checked on your pink take home sheet. Meloxicam is an anti-inflammatory/pain medication and will work for 24 hours. It may stay in your cat's system for up to 30 days. If you bring your cat to a vet FOR ANY REASON in the next 30 days you MUST bring the pink sheet to let the vet know your cat has had Meloxicam on the date of surgery. Something another vet may do could interact with the Meloxicam.
- If you see your pet licking the incision, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you purchase an e-collar (a cone for around the head) and put it on your pet immediately. You may also purchase Bitter Orange lotion from a pet store and apply to the area around the incision site, though an e-collar is the best preventative. If this instruction is not followed, the incision can be licked open and become infected. This is considered self trauma and H.O.P.E. Spay/Neuter Clinic will not cover your cost if it leads to a trip to your regular vet or to an emergency hospital. E-collars and Bitter Orange can be purchased at any pet supply store. Please make sure you purchase an e-collar that fits your pet properly so he/she can eat, drink and use the litterbox with ease.