



1370 South Main Road, #138  
Vineland, NJ 08360  
(856) 503-5572

[www.AnimalFriendsFoundation.com](http://www.AnimalFriendsFoundation.com)  
[Info@AnimalFriendsFoundation.com](mailto:Info@AnimalFriendsFoundation.com)

## AFF SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

### **What to expect when you get your pet home**

Your pet just had surgery. The surgery requires anesthesia. The patient is asleep and unable to feel any pain. In female dogs and cats, the uterus and ovaries are removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall. Females are unable to get pregnant. In both male dogs and cats, the scrotum is not removed, only the testicles. Removal of the testicles prevents production of sperm and male dog or cat will no longer be able to father puppies or kittens.

### **Surgical Procedure**

Female cats and dogs will have a mid-line incision in their abdomen. Male dogs have an incision just above the scrotum and male cats have two incisions, one in each side of the scrotum. **Check the incision site at least twice daily.** What you see today is what we consider normal. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Male cats may appear as if they still have their testicles. This is normal; the swelling should subside gradually through the recovery period. **Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision.** If this occurs, we recommend you purchase Bitter Apple spray to deter licking and chewing. If this does not deter them, an E-collar must be applied to prevent them from being able to reach the area.

### **In Heat**

If your female cat or dog was in heat at the time of surgery, you must **keep them away from un-neutered males for at least two weeks.** While they are unable to become pregnant, they will still attract intact males, for a short period of time.

## Page#2

### Sutures

Male cats do not have any sutures. Female cats will have a small dissolvable suture on her abdominal area. As the tissue heals, the suture will eventually fall out in a period of no more than 8 weeks. **Do not clean or apply topical ointment to the incision site.** Dogs will all have removable sutures regardless of sex. A brief follow-up visit usually in 7-10 days will be required to have sutures removed.

### Activity

Some animals are active after surgery, while others are quiet. **It is very important that you limit your pet's activity.** No running, jumping, playing, or other strenuous activity during the recovery period. The ideal recovery period is 7-10 days. If dealing with feral/stray cats, a minimum of two days for females and one day for males is necessary. Animals must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats must be kept inside. Keep your animals quiet. Dogs and female cats have sutures that provide strength to the tissue as they heal. Any strenuous activity could disrupt this healing process. **The healing process takes at least 7 days.**

### Feeding

Cats should be given only a little food and water after surgery. They will still have some anesthesia in their systems and too much food and water could cause vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Their appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and you should contact your Vet immediately. **Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food for a period of one week.** This could mask post-surgical complications.

### Potential Complications

Spaying and neutering are very safe surgeries; however, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. If it persists longer, please contact your veterinarian. **Contact your veterinarian if you notice any of the following:**

- Pale gums
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Discharge or bleeding from the incision
- Difficulty urinating
- Labored breathing

**\*\*SPECIAL RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS\*\***

**FERAL/OUTSIDE CATS: MONITOR & KEEP WARM**

Monitor the cats for bleeding, infection, illness, and appetite. **DO NOT release trapped/feral cats that night!** Leave them in the trap. After surgery, both male and female cats must be kept indoors overnight in a warm, draft-free area such as a bathroom, spare bedroom, basement, or climate controlled garage. Cats cannot regulate their body temperature while under anesthesia, so you must ensure that they don't get too cold or too hot. If at all possible, they should be kept in a room heated to about 70 degrees. The cats should not be placed on a cold or damp floor, which will induce chilling. Place them on blankets or layers of towels, with a space heater nearby or a heating pad on low placed underneath or on top of the cages. **BE CAREFUL** that the heaters are not too close and can overheat or burn the cats. We have also used electric blankets to cover traps, set on low.

CAUTION: Space heaters are fire hazards and should be monitored when in use.

Emergency Care Phone Numbers: Linwood Animal Hospital 609-926-5300  
Mt.Laurel Emergency 856-234-7626  
University of Pennsylvania 215-898-4685