

## POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

### 1<sup>st</sup> 24 Hours:

- Your pet may appear a little sleepy and groggy when you first pick him/her up. He/she might not be completely steady on his/her feet, or he/she may seem a little depressed.
- **Keep your pet warm and comfortable**; ideally in a quiet draft-free room that is no cooler than 20 - 22°C.

### Diet:

- Provide fresh water unless otherwise instructed.
- **When you arrive home after the surgery please feed your pet a quarter of their normal feeding.** By the following day the amount fed can return to normal.

### Incision Care:

- Prior to your pet being discharged, we will show you what the incision looks like. This is what you should expect to see when you check the incision at home. **You must look at the incision at least twice a day to make sure healing is progressing as expected (no inflammation (swelling), or discharge).**
- Dissolvable sutures are used for all procedures; therefore no suture removal is required.
- The **e-collar (plastic cone) should remain on your pet for 7 – 10 days post-surgery.** The length of time you keep it on will depend on how fast the incision area heals, and should remain on your pet for the full length of time if your animal attempts to lick the incision area.
- **Keep the incision clean and dry**, no bathing for two weeks. There is no need to put any creams on the incision site or to wet it.
- For female cats/dogs, it is not unusual to notice a small bit of swelling at the incision site within a week following the surgery. This small firm swelling near the top of the incision is a reaction to the suture material that is hidden under the skin. If there is no discharge or bleeding, this type of swelling will generally resolve on its own over time. If you have concerns please contact us.
- All animals having surgery at the spay/neuter clinic will receive a tattoo next to the incision area. (\*For male cats the tattoo will be located near the belly button) The incisions and tattoos have glue applied to them, a slightly crusty appearance is normal after surgery.
- **If your animal has received a microchip** please remember to **keep that microchip number handy**, along with the **phone number for 24PetWatch** should you wish to **update or add any contact or personal information.** It is always recommended to contact the company to ensure the microchip registration was successful and your information in their database is correct.

### Medications:

- For cats: each patient was given an injectable pain reliever called Metacam (Meloxicam). No additional medications are necessary.
- For dogs: each patient receives three (3) pre-measured syringes of oral pain reliever called Metacam (Meloxicam). Please follow the instructions on the package label.
- **Side effects of Metacam (Meloxicam) may include: vomiting, diarrhea, black stools, and or a lack of appetite. Please discontinue use if any of these signs occur and give us a call/email to determine if a recheck examination is necessary.**

### Exercise:

- **Keep cats indoors for 7-10 days post-op. Keep dogs on leash for 7-10 days post-op.** High levels of activity post-surgery have the potential to damage the incision.

### Emergency Care:

- If the incision **begins to look wet, red, swollen or feels hot to the touch**, call us **immediately** at **1-416-392-2273 x 0** (for operator) who will coordinate with our intake department **between the hours of 10:00am – 6:00pm.** We will arrange an appointment with one of our veterinarians to examine your pet and treat the condition, if necessary.
- If outside of the hours of 10:00am-6:00pm, you will need to contact your local veterinarian or emergency clinic.
- If you have post-operative concerns that are non-emergencies please leave a detailed message on the operator voicemail and we will return your call during operational hours, or email [spayneuter@torontohumanesociety.com](mailto:spayneuter@torontohumanesociety.com).

If you take your pet to an emergency clinic or to another veterinarian for treatment of a surgical issue, you will incur costs that will not be refunded by the THS Spay Neuter Services.