



METRO NASHVILLE
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

Post-Surgery Care Instructions

- 1. Keep your pet quiet and indoors.** Dogs must be walked on a leash to use the bathroom outside. No running, jumping, playing, swimming, climbing, or other strenuous activity for 7-10 days. Do not allow your pet to play with other animals during this time. Keep your pet indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. You can confine your pet to a bathroom or crate when you are not home to supervise his activity. Do not bathe your pet during this recovery period.
- 2. Monitor your pet's appetite and response to food.** Anesthesia can cause nausea and vomiting. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Start by offering a small amount of water after 5 p.m. If your pet keeps the water down, offer 1/3 to 1/2 of their normal feeding after 6 p.m. If your pet vomits, then don't feed again until tomorrow morning. Do not offer table scraps, junk food, or milk during the recovery period – these rich foods could upset your pet's digestive system. Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24-36 hours after surgery – this is normal.
- 3. Check the incision site twice daily.** Redness and swelling should be minimal and there should be no drainage. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If your pet tries to lick the incision, an Elizabethan collar **MUST** be applied that prevents licking or chewing that could cause infection. There are no external sutures to be removed.
- 4. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours, diarrhea, and/or vomiting is not normal.** If any of these occur, your pet needs to be seen by a veterinarian. Please contact MACC at the number below, or in the event of an emergency after-hours, take your pet to an emergency veterinarian.

Please note:

- Your pet received a permanent green tattoo at or near the incision (or near the umbilicus for male cats). This is to show that your pet has already been spayed or neutered to prevent an unnecessary exploratory surgery in the future.
- Your pet received injectable pain medication(s) to provide pain control during the immediate post-operative period. If your pet needs additional pain medication, please contact MACC. **Do not give any human pain medications to your pet!**
- Do not be alarmed if your pet's eyes look "weepy" or have mucous in them. Eye lubricant was applied to your pet's eyes prior to surgery to prevent drying during anesthesia.
- Animals can develop a mild cough after surgery due to the breathing (endotracheal) tube placed during anesthesia. If the cough is persistent, or if nasal or eye discharge is present, your pet may have an upper respiratory infection (similar to the human cold). Please contact MACC or your regular veterinarian for evaluation and treatment.

MACC cannot reimburse for medical expenses incurred at other veterinary hospitals. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's surgery or recovery, please contact:

Metro Animal Care and Control
8am to 4pm Daily
(615) 862-7928