



## Canine Spay Surgical After Care Instructions

Discharge instructions for \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Diet:

Anesthesia can cause nausea and vomiting so please refrain from feeding immediately after any surgical procedure. Feed only a small amount (about half) of her regular diet this evening after 7 pm. You can feed as usual the following day. Do not change your pet's diet at this time. This includes feeding table scraps, new treats or any other human food.

### Exercise and Activity

**Keep your pet quiet.** Patients' recovering from surgery should have limited exercise. Avoid dangerous situations including access to staircases. No running, jumping, swimming, bathing or other strenuous activities for **10-14 days**. Any strenuous activity could disrupt the healing process. Pets must be kept indoors.

### Monitor:

A decrease in activity or appetite for 1-2 days may be observed. However if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms, please notify your regular veterinarian:

- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours
- Refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours
- Labored breathing or pale gums
- Severe depression, weakness or pain
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Difficulty urinating

**CHECK THE INCISION SITE TWICE DAILY** for swelling, redness or drainage. Any swelling should be minimal and resolve within 24 hours. **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR CHEW AT THE INCISION!** If your pet licks at the incision you will need to purchase a restrictive elizabethan collar to prevent access to the surgical site while it heals. **Failure to do so may result in infection, dehiscence (opening of surgical site) and the need for further emergency surgical intervention.** Sutures need to be removed in 14 days, no sooner. Do not clean or apply any topical ointment to the incision site. Female patients will receive a small green tattoo near the incision to mark they have been spayed.

Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24-36 hours after surgery-this is normal.

### Medications:

Please give medications as prescribed for pain control. Please do not give any other medications (prescription, over the counter or herbal) without first consulting with your regular veterinarian. **DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN.**

**Rimadyl chewable tablet – Give as directed on label.**

Today your pet also received:

Microchip      Rabies Vaccine      Distemper combination vaccine      Heartworm Test

If you have any concerns following the spay surgery, please contact your regular veterinary clinic or Central Wisconsin Animal Emergency Center at 715-693-6934.