



## Neuter Discharge Instructions

Part of Seagate Veterinary Hospital mission is to educate owners on how better veterinary care will maximize the life of their pet as well as their own. Today your pet visited the hospital for a neuter (also known as castration). This hand out is intended to educate owners about the procedure and the post-operative care your pet will require.

### What is a neuter?

This is a surgical procedure performed on male pets under general anesthesia where the reproductive organs (testicles) are removed. Although it is a very commonly performed procedure, it is a surgery and does involve anesthesia. Close post-operative monitoring and care is very important. In some pets, the testicles have not descended into the scrotum (cryptorchidism) and abdominal surgery may have to be performed.

### Why neuter?

This procedure will eliminate the possibility of several types of diseases including testicular cancer, which can be life threatening. Your pet will no longer be capable of impregnating females or producing puppies. The likelihood of developing some behavioral concerns (urine marking, spraying, and roaming) and other diseases (some types of prostate diseases) may also be reduced, especially when the neuter is performed earlier in life.

### What can I expect his first night home?

Someone should stay at home with your pet the first night.

**Activity level:** While it is not unusual for your pet to be sleepy and move around more slowly the first night following surgery, your pet should still be willing and able to go for a short walk to urinate and defecate. Do not allow any running, jumping, or excess activity for a week following surgery. If your



pet refuses to get up, is unable to walk or doesn't respond to you, please contact us or your local emergency hospital.

**Feeding instructions:** Some pets may have mild nausea following general anesthesia. Wait a few hours after returning home to offer a small amount of water. If you don't notice any problems, you may offer water free-choice and a small meal (¼ to ½ normal amount) tonight. If you notice any vomiting or diarrhea, do not offer food or water until the following morning. Return to your regular routine for feeding the next day. If your pet refuses to eat or drink for more than 24 hours or has more than one or two episodes of vomiting or diarrhea, please contact us or your local emergency hospital.

## **What can I expect the week following surgery?**

**Restrict your pet's activity for the first week following surgery.** Unlike people, we can't ask that pets restrict their activity post-operatively. Confine your pet indoors and take dogs outside on a leash to eliminate. Most pets are ready to go back to their normal routines the day after surgery; however it's important that you ensure that there is no running, jumping, leaping onto and off of furniture, etc., for the first week following surgery. Excessive activity can lead to bleeding and bruising of the incision line, impaired healing or other complications post operatively.

**Watch for licking or chewing at the incision site.** This is very important as pets can open up incision sites very quickly which can cause infection, delay healing or even require additional surgery, which can be twice as expensive due to damage caused. When your pet is unattended, or if you have noticed them paying attention to their incision site at all, they should wear an Elizabethan collar (cone), especially at night.

**Keep incision site clean and dry.** Regardless of whether your pet has skin sutures or sutures beneath the skin, it's important to make sure that the incision site remains clean and dry. No bathing or swimming for 10 to 14 days after the surgery.

**Restrict access to intact female pets.** Adult, sexually mature pets will still be interested in breeding with female pets in heat immediately following the surgery, and due to "stored sperm," can still potentially impregnate them for up to one month post-operatively. To be absolutely safe, don't allow access to female pets which are in heat or have not been spayed for one month after surgery.



**Schedule a recheck in 10 to 14 days.** Discuss this with your veterinarian; if external sutures (stitches) were placed, they will be removed at this appointment.

## **What to watch for?**

If any of the following are noticed, please contact us or your local emergency hospital immediately.

- Suture site redness, oozing, swelling, missing sutures, or pain on light touching. ( check this area several times daily)
- Excessive licking, chewing or bothering the suture site (this can be a sign of pain: your veterinarian may prescribe additional pain medications and/or an Elizabethan collar to prevent self trauma)
- Vomiting and diarrhea, more than 1 or 2 episodes or longer than 24 hours
- Lack of thirst or appetite, for over 24 hours
- Straining to urinate or unable to pass urine
- Coughing (because an endotracheal tube is placed during general anesthesia, a mild cough is normal for 24 hours, but should not continue or progressively worsen or interfere with your pets breathing or activity level)
- Listlessness, inactivity or nonresponsiveness
- Soreness, stiffness or pain that does not respond to pain medications

**If you are concerned or notice that your pet has any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately as they may be signs of post-operative complications. If Sea Gate Veterinary Hospital is not open, seek immediate assistance at a veterinary emergency center.**

*We recommend the Crossroads Animal Emergency Hospital whose phone number is (714) 794-6900.*