



# SPAY SPA & NEUTER NOOK

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## POST-OPERATIVE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

**Your pet has just had major surgery and will require some extra attention while recovering.**

**The total recovery period is two weeks. During this recovery period:**

- cats should be kept indoors
- dogs should be taken for brief leash walks for urination and defecation only
- no bathing, grooming, or swimming
- no running, jumping, climbing, or rough play
- no dog parks or dog daycare
- no running up and down stairs

**Over the next 24 – 36 hours, your pet may still be drowsy from the anesthesia, during this time:**

- do not leave unattended with a water bowl
- keep away from stairs and other hazards where they could fall and injure themselves

**Once you have arrived home, please allow your pet to settle in for an hour or two before providing food and water:**

- offer a small amount of food – about half of a normal meal. If they handle the meal well, you can provide another small meal about an hour later
- provide water in small doses – never leave the pet unattended with a large water bowl after surgery

**Unless otherwise instructed, your pet does not need to come back for suture removal, however, please monitor the incision site and contact us if notice any of the following:**

- excessive swelling, redness
- oozing
- bleeding

**It is very important that your pet does not lick or chew at their incision. If you have an e-collar, it is recommended that your pet wears it during the recovery period whenever they cannot be supervised.**

If you did not purchase an e-collar and your pet is bothering the surgery area, you may purchase an e-collar from our clinic or a local pet store.

**If you notice any of the following, please contact us immediately or seek emergency veterinary care:**

- excessive lethargy
- inability to urinate/defecate (after 24-48 hours)
- lack of appetite/thirst (after 24 hours)

### **RABBITS/GUINEA PIGS**

- Feed a normal amount of food and water upon arriving home. It is important for rabbits/guinea pigs to eat right away.
- Change your pet's bedding every 1 – 2 days for two weeks post-surgery.