



MONTANA SPAY/NEUTER TASK FORCE

AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet will act drowsy and unstable for several hours after surgery. The total effects of the anesthesia won't be gone until tomorrow. It is not unusual for an animal to shake and act uncoordinated when waking up. This is normal and is caused by the anesthetics used for surgery. Please remember older pets and overstressed pets may take longer than normal to recover.

The surgical area may be slightly swollen and red for a short period of time. This is normal for a day or so. A lump will form as the suture material begins to break down and scar tissue forms. This is normal if there is no redness, drainage, or an incision that is hot to the touch. Please call if you notice any of these problems with your incision.

The first few days after surgery follow these guidelines:

1. Keep your pet quiet tonight and in a warm comfortable place. Anesthetics stop the ability to control a pet's body temperature. Do not leave your pet outside in the cold and keep your pet cool in hot weather, until the anesthetics wear off.
 2. Keep your pet away from children and other animals. Coming out of anesthetics a pet, especially a cat, may be confused or aggressive and may not realize who is trying to handle it. Do not leave your pet where it can easily fall, such as off furniture or down a stairway until the sedation wears off.
 3. Because your pet received a general anesthetic today, give only a small amount of water tonight and a small amount of food. Feeding or watering your pet excessively may cause vomiting and/or diarrhea.
 4. Please do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision!!! This can cause infection and may loosen or pull out sutures. If the animal persists in licking the incision, you may have to pick up a special collar sold in pet stores and at your local veterinarian known as an E-collar.
 5. Your pet will not need to have any sutures removed as they are all buried under the skin.
 6. Do not allow your pet to get wet for 7-10 days after surgery.
 7. Do not give any type of pain medication, such as tylenol, aspirin or ibuprofen without your regular veterinarian's permission to do so.
 8. Special instructions:
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