



After-Surgery Care

Your pet is recovering from anesthesia and surgery and needs your help.

Please follow these instructions carefully to help ensure quick, safe healing for your pet.

The First Evening:

- * Your pet may have an anesthesia “hang-over”. They may be grumpy, or very reactive to noise, quick motions, bright lights, etc. Keep them in a quiet, dark, warm place. Keep them separated from other pets and children, and general commotion.
- * All patients get pain medications after surgery. We do not recommend over-the-counter medications for your pet. Please check with a vet if you think your animal is in pain. A minor degree of discomfort is normal.
- * Some pain and anti-anxiety medications will also relax muscles (making them walk funny), and some cause constipation.
- * Keep your pet warm the whole night after surgery. They need to stay at 70-80 degrees, and should have padding or bedding as an option, because they may have difficulty retaining heat for 24 hours after surgery.
- * If you feel a soft swelling near the chest area, it may be the extra fluids we administer subcutaneously/under the skin. These typically absorb over the course of 4-6 hours.
- * Your pet should be offered water after it comes home. It may not be thirsty, because we give our patients fluids, as described above.
- * Offer a water and a bit of soft food an hour after you arrive home--just enough food for a couple of swallows. Some animals will be ravenous, and some will refuse it.
- * If your animal is ravenous, *do not* overfeed, as he or she might vomit.

The Next Day:

- * Your animal should come back to its normal eating and drinking habits in 24 hours.
- * Look at the incision. There may be some redness and a little bruising, but it shouldn't be swollen, or have any discharge or bleeding.
- * Most pets will lick a few times to clean the area, but chewing is NOT allowed! If you see this, get an e-collar or “lampshade collar” to prevent the animal from opening the incision. You can get one from Bend Spay & Neuter Clinic or most other vet clinics.

Important points to remember:

Look at the incision every day. *Every day it should look the same, or better.* Also—

- * Female dogs who were in heat at surgery may still allow mating after surgery. DO NOT let this happen! It can cause a very serious infection.
- * Adult male dogs that are too active after surgery can have fluid that fills their scrotal sac. This looks like the dog has not been neutered. This is usually serum, and the body will re-absorb the fluid. Dogs are usually not bothered by it. If you see this, the most important thing to do is to make sure he stays QUIET. This will help the area to heal much faster.
- * Female dogs & cats are tattooed with green ink at the incision site to show they've been spayed.
- * All stitches are absorbable and do not need to be removed. They can take up to a couple of months to completely dissolve. Pets will occasionally develop a slight swelling at the incision site. This is a reaction to the absorbable sutures and is normal. If you are concerned at all about the healing process, please call us.
- * Limit activity: 1 week for males, 2 weeks for females. Short leash walks are ok.
- * Do not allow swimming or bathing for 2 weeks, to limit potential infection.

Should your pet experience any complications due to surgery or anesthesia, we urge you to call a veterinarian immediately. If possible, try to contact us first at 617-1010

We operate Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If you cannot reach us, please call your veterinarian, or the Emergency Clinic at 385-9110. It is located in Bend at 1245 SE 3rd Street and is open evenings and weekends.

The Bend Spay & Neuter Project is a nonprofit organization which provides sterilization procedures, vaccines, and microchips only.

These procedures are subsidized by donations and grants to provide you with this service at less than cost.

For all other procedures, please support your local vets!

Local veterinarians can provide a variety of services for your pet, such as vaccinations, microchip placement, wellness checkups, blood work, dentals and much more!

Thank you for helping us with our mission of reducing the number of unwanted animals in our community!

Want to Help Make More of a Difference?

We always need:

Laundry Soap

Bleach

Distilled Water

Volunteers

Monetary Donations

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.bendsnip.org