

## **POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPAY/NEUTER**

### **YOUR PET'S CARE AFTER SURGERY IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR PET'S HEALTH. PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURY (OR EVEN DEATH) TO YOUR PET.**

- Anesthesia interferes with an animal's ability to regulate body temperature. Tonight, keep your pet confined to a small area (for example, the bathroom with the toilet lid DOWN) where it is warm and quiet. Do not put your pet on a bed or other high place. Tonight, separate your pet from other animals and young children.
- Offer water and moist food in very small amounts the first 12 hours, but do not be concerned if your pet does not want to eat for the first 12-24 hours following surgery. Remove food until morning if vomiting occurs. If your pet refuses to drink the day after surgery, gently feed water or Pedialyte carefully with a bulb or syringe.
- Anesthesia may wear off slowly, so your pet may appear drugged this evening but will become progressively more active and alert in time. Dogs may sleep and wake up several times tonight and are often clumsy-keep them confined and quiet. Cats may hallucinate as anesthetics wear off; sounds, light, and touching may frighten them. They may growl or claw at invisible objects for up to 24 hours. Some cats do best in quiet, dark places such as a bathroom (with the toilet lid DOWN).
- **RESTRICT YOUR PET'S ACTIVITY FOR 7-14 DAYS AFTER SURGERY.** Do not allow running, jumping, or playing with other pets or children. Keep your pet in an indoor clean, dry place for at least 4 days after surgery. Adult males can be fertile up to 4 weeks after surgery. Adult females must be kept away from males for 30 days, as intercourse after surgery can be fatal.
- Your female pet has a ventral midline incision *or* flank incision. Your pet may also have a green/teal tattoo which might appear like another incision, but is just the subcutaneous layer of skin, to show they have been altered- do not try to scrub off. Your pet has buried sutures with surgical glue on the skin incision, unless noted otherwise on the other side of this form (male cats do not require sutures). Suture removal is not necessary unless indicated. Check your pet's incision daily for discharge, opening, swelling, or redness. **DO NOT ALLOW** your pet to lick his/her incision. If he or she does lick, you will need to put an Elizabethan collar on his/her so your pet cannot lick. Do not put anything on the incision. Never scrub or wipe the incision or the glue will separate and open the incision.
- **DO NOT GIVE TYLENOL, ASPIRIN, MOTRIN, IBUPROFEN OR OTHER PAIN RELIEVERS TO YOUR PET - THESE CAN BE DEADLY TO PETS!!!!**

#### **Emergency Pet Clinics Located in Tucson, AZ:\***

**Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty and Emergency** (2 locations): Phone: (520) 888-3177  
141 East Fort Lowell Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705 OR 7474 East Broadway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85710

**Pima Pet Clinic:** Phone: (520) 327-5624 Location: 4832 East Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85712

**Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson** Phone: (520) 795-9955

Location: 4909 North La Cañada Dr. Tucson, AZ 85704

\*Fees incurred at emergency clinics are at owner's expense.