

# POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

**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 pets 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, force-feed water or Pedialyte carefully.
- 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 this evening 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, wrestling with other pets or children. Keep your pet in a clean, dry place for at least 4 days after surgery. Males remain fertile for 3-4 weeks after surgery—keep them away from females. Females may try to breed for 10 days after surgery—keep them away from males. Discourage your pet from licking the incision. If you cannot do this, come to the clinic for an Elizabethan collar, which will prevent the problem. (Do not put anything on the incision. The clinic can repair damage done to an incision, but there will be a minimal charge to the pet's owner.
- Do not allow your pet to get wet or have a bath for at least 7 days after surgery.
- **DO NOT GIVE TYLENOL OR OTHER PAIN RELIEVERS TO YOUR PET – THESE CAN BE DEADLY TO PETS!!!!**
- Your pet has buried sutures (male cats do not require sutures) so suture removal is not necessary. Check your pet's incision daily for bleeding, discharge, wound opening, swelling, or redness. Some redness and swelling of the incision is expected and is not a problem.
- Watch for vaginal discharge for 3 weeks after her spay surgery (females).

***\*\*\*Special Post-Operative care for your pet may be included on the Proof of Sterilization form.\*\*\****

## **FOR EMERGENCIES:**

**Call our TUCSON office FIRST**

**Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic**

**During Business Hours Mon-Sat call (520)889-9643 and After Hours (520)488-4562**

**Location: 5408 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Tucson, AZ 85706**

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

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

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

**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

**Valley Animal Hospital:** Phone: (520) 748-0331 Location: 4984 East 22nd St. Tucson, AZ 85711

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

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