**POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

Thank you for choosing to have your pet spayed/neutered at the H.O.P.E. Animal Foundation! There are rarely any complications from spay/neuter surgery. You can help to prevent problems by following these simple instructions:

**FEED YOUR PET ITS NORMAL DIET**

* If you pick up same day of surgery
  + Please feed half of normal diet at 7:00pm, return to normal feeding the next day.
* If you pick next day:
  + Please feed as usual.
* Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours post-operative, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and your pet should be taken to a veterinarian. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery.

**POST OPERATIVE PAIN MEDICATION**

* Post operative pain medication is recommended for all animals having surgery.
* If you purchase them, please start medication the morning after surgery. Full instructions on prescription label.

**RESTRICT ACTIVITY FOR 7 DAYS**

* Your pet(s) just had a **MAJOR** surgery and will not heal properly unless they stay calm.
* Your pet may be groggy for a day or so, but even when the pet feels better, do **NOT** allow him/her to play freely.
* **NO** swimming, bathing or mud for 2 weeks – keep the incision site dry!
* If female, keep your pet away from males for **AT LEAST** 3 weeks!
* Provide dogs controlled walking on a leash mixed with kennel or indoor house rest, and keep separated from other pets.
* Keep your pet indoors and separated from other pets.

**KEEP ANIMAL FROM LICKING, CHEWING OR SCRATCHING AT INCISION SITE**

* The stitches and glue that hold your pet’s incision together may irritate your pet.
* Look at the surgery site at least twice a day. If you see skin edges, sutures, redness or wetness, you **MUST** get an Elizabethan Collar (often referred to as a “cone”) and keep it on your pet **AT ALL TIMES** for at least one week.
* We recommend your pet receive a post-operative examination 3 to 7 days after surgery. Have the incision checked for complete healing, to remove any skin sutures, and to discuss additional needs, follow-up care, and vaccination boosters.
* Serious consequences, including **DEATH**, can result if your pet chews at its surgery site.

***IF YOU THINK YOUR PET HAS A SURGERY-RELATED ISSUE, PLEASE BRING HIM/HER BACK TO H.O.P.E. FOR A FREE RE-CHECK ANYTIME MONDAY - THURSDAY FROM 10AM TO 3PM! HOPE IS OPEN FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AND WILL SEE RECHECKS BUT THERE IS A $29 OFFICE FEE.***

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