

## BCSPCA Prince George Spay Neuter Clinic

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[www.pgclinic.ca](http://www.pgclinic.ca)

## SURGICAL AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

**Your pet has just been through a general anesthetic and surgical procedure. To avoid complications, please read and follow these instructions carefully.**

- Anesthetic effects can linger for a few hours and may cause mild disorientation, sleepiness and/or nausea. To prevent injury, keep your pet in a quiet place, and away from stairs or other dangers until these effects have passed.
- You may offer a small amount of water immediately, and then a small meal 2 hours after that - we recommend only offering about 1/2 of your pet's regular amount to prevent gorging, and we do not recommend any new or rich food or treats as these may cause digestive upset. Do not be surprised if your pet isn't interested in food the first night, but **please call us if your pet is unwilling to eat or drink by the following morning.**
- Your pet must be kept indoors with their activity restricted for **at least 10-14 days** to allow proper healing. Dogs may go outside on a leash only (no free running) for short periods only to pee and poop. Avoid running, jumping, playing or swimming - **we understand that this can be very difficult, but it is extremely important!** You may need to use a crate (dogs) or a small room (cats) to confine your pet if necessary to keep them quiet. Even if the incision looks healed on the outside, full internal healing can take 2 weeks or more.
- **Your pet is not allowed to lick their incision.** To prevent licking, we recommend purchasing an e-collar (cone) which we will size to your pet to ensure a proper fit. You can either use a flat collar or roll gauze to keep the e-collar on your pet. The fit should be snug but not tight - you should be able to fit 2 fingers between the gauze and your pet's neck. The e-collar should be worn if your pet is unsupervised or you notice any licking - in general most pets only need to keep it on for the first 5-7 days, but please use it until you are sure they are no longer licking. **Do not modify the e-collar by cutting it shorter!** If your pet is still able to lick the incision with the e-collar on, please call us right away.
- Check your pet's incision at least once a day. All sutures are internal and dissolvable, and do not require removal. In male cats the incision is left open to heal naturally. A small amount of seepage or minor bruising can be normal shortly after surgery, but **if you notice any swelling, redness, major bruising, or continued drainage please call us.**
- Your pet received multiple medications today as part of the anesthetic and surgery, which can interact with other drugs. **Do not give any other medications at home without checking with us first!** (including but not limited to Tylenol, Aspirin, vitamins, supplements, over the counter products, and homeopathic/natural remedies).
- During business hours, if you have any questions about your pet after surgery or need non-urgent follow up care, please call our main line; we would be happy to help. **The clinic does not offer after-hours emergency services** - these services are provided for our patients cooperatively by PG Vet Hospital, Ospika Animal Hospital, College Heights Vet Clinic, Hart Family Vet Clinic and Murdoch Vet Clinic. **If you have an emergency after-hours, please call 250-649-8373.** Please note that if an emergency visit is required, there will be an emergency call in fee of \$175/\$200 (before/after 10pm) plus further costs - exam fees/treatments/medications - based at standard fees at each facility.

## **POST OP PAIN CONTROL INSTRUCTIONS - METACAM**

- After surgery, your pet received an injection of Metacam to reduce pain and inflammation. In addition to the injection, we are sending home additional doses of Metacam to keep your pet comfortable and pain free during his or her recovery.
- **Instructions:** *Give your pet the entire contents of ONE syringe by mouth once every 24 hours WITH FOOD until finished. Do not give the first dose until at least 2pm on the day AFTER surgery.*
- **If your pet is not eating, you see any side effects, or otherwise have any concerns, DO NOT give the medication and call us at 250-562-5556 for advice.**

- **Information for cat owners from the package insert:**

"Metacam Oral Suspension for cats (meloxicam) is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and as with other drugs in this class, adverse reactions may occur in treated animals. The most common adverse reactions reported involve the kidneys and the gastrointestinal tract. Typical symptoms include loss of appetite, depression and vomiting. It is important in these situations to discontinue treatment immediately and contact your veterinarian. In most cases, the adverse reactions are transient and disappear after termination of treatment but in rare instances may become serious if treatment is not discontinued. Consult your veterinarian."

- **Information for dog owners from the package insert:**

"Metacam (meloxicam) is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and as with other drugs in this group, side effects may occur in treated dogs. The most common adverse effects reported involve the gastrointestinal tract and usually occur within the first week of treatment. Typical symptoms include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dark stools and depression. It is important in these situations to discontinue treatment immediately and contact your veterinarian. In most cases, the side effects are transient and disappear after termination of treatment but in rare instances may become serious. Consult your veterinarian."