

## BCSPCA Prince George Spay Neuter Clinic

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## 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 pets' 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 pets' 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 pets' 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. If your pet is female, you will also see a small green line above the incision - this is a tattoo to show that she has been spayed. 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 as 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.** The answering service will provide you with information on how to access care depending on the facility that is on call. If your pet needs to be seen, there will be an emergency call in fee of \$175 in addition to further costs to cover exam fees, treatments and/or medications, and payment is due at the time of service. **There is no local emergency coverage after 10pm** – after 10pm, the nearest 24-hour emergency clinics are located in Kelowna, Vancouver, Calgary & Edmonton. You can also contact VetTriage, a flat-fee telemedicine platform available 24/7 to determine if an emergency visit is required.