**POST- SURGICAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS (4 pages)**

E-COLLARS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN FOR ALL PETS!!

You **must** restrict your pet’s activity for the next 10-14 days to allow the tissue time to heal and avoid causing the incision to open. They have just had major surgery! An e-collar will be sent home with your pet. It **MUST** be worn for the 10–14-day healing period. **Failure to use the e-collar will cause your pet to lick their incision site, which may result in a serious infection and could lead to serious complications and/or death.**

* **ALL cats** should stay indoors.
* **ALL dogs** should go out on a leash for potty breaks and then back inside to rest during this period.
* Avoid getting the incision wet ie: licking, baths, swimming, etc.
* Females should be kept separate from males during their recovery time, as mounting could cause the patient harm or even death.
* Keep neutered males away from in heat females for at least 6 weeks. They can still impregnate intact females for a period following sterilization surgery.
* Your pet has been given a small green tattoo near the incision site-this signifies that it’s spayed/neutered, should they ever become lost.
* Inspect the incision site at least twice daily. The way it looks today is normal. **Male** cats have no sutures. Their incisions need to heal on their own and will sometimes gape a bit while healing.
* Feed their normal diet. If vomiting occurs, withhold food and water for 2 hours and try again.

**Contact us for a recheck if the following concerns become apparent:**

* Not eating or drinking
* Vomiting or diarrhea
* Not urinating or having bowel movements
* Lethargy
* Changes in the incision- open, gapping, discharge, bleeding etc.

**Email** [**appointments@wagwag.org**](mailto:appointments@wagwag.org) **for faster response time and add “URGENT” in the subject line or call 541-345-3566. Voicemails will be checked daily Monday – Thursday and once on Friday & Saturday at 10:30 am. Voicemails left after 10:30 am on Saturday will be returned on Monday during clinic hours. Emails are checked daily. Please provide pictures of the incision if you see a concern with the incision.**

**Post Surgical Medications**

**FOR CATS:**

**FEMALES:** Receive a long-acting pain medication that lasts 3-4 days. This medication can have side effects including restlessness, agitation, and dilated pupils. Typically, these side effects will subside in about 24 hours. They also receive an injection of an anti-inflammatory that lasts for 24 hours. No medications are sent home.

**MALES:** Receive an oral pain medication that lasts for 8 to 12 hours, and an injection of an anti-inflammatory that lasts for 24 hours. No medications are sent home.

**FOR DOGS:** Instructions for dose/frequency are on the labels & you may give all 3 medications at once. Best to give with small amount of food

* Gabapentin: This is a pain medication. Start this evening.
* Trazodone: This is a sedative medication. Can start this evening if your dog is too

excited/active. Give only if needed for extra sedation. (Dogs under 5lbs are too small for this

medication and none will be sent home).

* Meloxicam: This is an anti-inflammatory medication. Also helps with pain control. Start this

the morning after surgery. (If your dog is too young or too old for this medication, none will be

sent home).

The below images show what a normal, routine incision should look like during the healing process and will help you check on your pet’s progress. You will note the small green tattoo indicating that your pet has been sterilized. It should also heal similarly to those seen in the images.

*Routine surgeries do not include unusual surgeries such as larger incisions for pregnancy or uterine infection, which will be specifically described in the “go-home” notes for your pet*

Close-up of dogs'face

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Close-up of a dog's skin

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A close-up of a cat's body

Description automatically generatedA collage of different cats

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A poster with instructions on how to use a dog litter box

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