

## DELAWARE SPCA SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

### POST OP INSTRUCTIONS

Please remember, your pet has undergone major surgery. In order for your pet to heal without complications please review and follow the following instructions:

- Tonight:** Keep your pet confined to small, warm area with fresh and clean bedding.
- No unsupervised access to stairs (use a leash for all stair use today).
  - Keep your pet away from other pets and children.
  - Your pet may experience shivering, mild amounts of diarrhea, vomiting, or loss of bladder control. These are all NORMAL following anesthesia and surgery.
  - DO NOT administer any over the counter or prescription medications without approval due to side effects possibly occurring.
- Food:** Cats: No food restrictions. Cats in traps should be held until the next morning before releasing. (After 7am)
- Dogs: Offer small amounts of ice or allow an ice cube to melt in pet's water bowl.
- A very small amount of food is permissible as long as the animal is not vomiting.
  - The day after surgery, your pet may receive small meals, slowly returning to normal amount.
- Activity:** No running, jumping, rough play, bathing or swimming for **14-21 days** after surgery.
- Dogs should be leash walked for **14-21 days** after surgery.
  - Keep your pet indoors and confined to small space for as long as possible during the recovery period.
- Incision:** Check the incision site daily. Some redness, swelling or bruising is normal.
- Sutures are dissolvable and do not need to be removed, unless otherwise noted.
  - Keep the incision site area clean and dry. If the incision is dirty or crusty, clean with a small amount of warm water.
  - **DO NOT ALLOW THE PET TO LICK INCISION AREA!** This delays the healing process and causes complications.
- E-Collar:** E-collars are recommended for all pets that have surgery.
- E-collars should be worn for 14-21 days after surgery
  - All animals can eat, drink, sleep, and go to the bathroom with the e-collar on, although adjustments may have to be made.
  - For cats, please remove all hoods on litter pans and make sure the cat does not get stuck in any small or tight place.

Should you notice any sudden swelling, opening of the incision site, redness, heat or discharge from the incision site please contact us during normal business hours with any questions. After hours and on weekends, please contact your local veterinary office or 24 hour emergency veterinarian. If you choose to take your pet to a private veterinary hospital for medical treatment related to spay/neuter issues, you as the pet owner will assume all financial responsibility for any and all charges. **There is no charge for a recheck at the Delaware SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic. However, there will be a fee for any medical supplies or medications that may be dispensed.**