



## POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- Dogs and cats must be kept indoors for 24-48 hours after surgery, to enable you to carefully monitor recovery and to prevent complications.
- With anesthesia, stomach upset can occur. We recommend that you only offer  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your pets' normal meal this evening and increase the amount over the next two feedings. It is ok if your pet does not eat this evening. Your pet should be eating the day after surgery and should not be experiencing any stomach upset.
- Restrict your animal's activity for the next 7 to 10 days. Do not allow running, jumping, or unsupervised time with other pets. Please note that females in heat at time of spay can still mate with males and this can lead to infection or inflammation at the surgery site (but not pregnancy).
- An e-collar can help prevent your animal from licking/chewing at the incision site for 7 to 10 days after surgery.
- Check the incision daily for the first 7 to 10 days. A small amount of crusting is normal immediately after surgery. Should you notice any continued drainage or swelling, please contact your regular veterinary clinic as soon as possible. You are welcome to call the shelter as well, but will likely need a recheck from your veterinarian.
- Do not allow the incision to be immersed in water for 7 to 10 days after surgery. (No bathing, no swimming)
- If the surgery required the use of sutures, the sutures are dissolvable and should not require removal.
- **DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL TO DOGS AND CATS FOR PAIN RELIEF. TYLENOL IS TOXIC TO ANIMALS AND ASPIRIN CAN BE DEADLY AFTER SURGERY.** Your animal was given pain medication at the time of surgery.
- If you have any questions about your animal's condition after surgery, please call the shelter or your regular veterinarian.
- For post-surgical problems or questions you should contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinarian for assistance.