



Animal Welfare League
of Frederick County

POST SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please read and follow these instructions carefully. **Your cat had surgery today – just like a human after surgery, your cat may be lethargic, want to sleep, and not want to eat. That’s okay and you should allow it to rest and recover.** We advise you to keep your cat in its carrier or in a small area (such as a bathroom) where it cannot jump around or injure itself for the first 3-4 hours after you bring it home. Females should be restrained for at least 1 day following surgery.

Food and Water - Feed 1/2 of normal diet after 5:00 pm the day of the surgery. Provide water immediately upon return home. Your cat may resume its normal diet by the next day after surgery.

Exercise - Limit activity and exercise for 7 days following surgery, especially for females.

Eliminations - Your pet may not have a bowel movement for 24 to 36 hours after surgery; this is normal.

Monitor your cat’s behavior and watch for danger signs that may include:

- ☹ Loss of appetite over 2 days
- ☹ Refusal to drink water for 1 day
- ☹ Weakness
- ☹ Depression
- ☹ Vomiting
- ☹ Diarrhea

Medications - If dispensed, please follow directions carefully.

Sutures - We use dissolvable sutures for females. Try to discourage your pet from licking or chewing at the incision site. Check the incision line daily for any swelling, redness, or discharge. Male cats do not have a sutured incision so that the site may drain and close naturally; thus, some discharge is normal.

If follow up is needed, please contact us by calling 301-663-5855 and leave a message indicating the problem. We monitor this message line closely in the 48 hours post-clinic so we will call you back. Or, you may take your pet the nearest veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic.

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