

Westbrook Animal Hospital Post-Operative Care

Instructions for Your Cat's Neuter Surgery



Dear Cat Parent,

Thank you for trusting us with your cat's neuter surgery. Neutering is an important procedure for your cat's health and well-being, and we are here to ensure a smooth and comfortable recovery. Below, you will find detailed post-operative care instructions to follow as your cat recovers at home.

General Recovery Guidelines

- Anesthesia Recovery:** Your cat may be groggy or disoriented immediately following the surgery due to the effects of anesthesia. This is normal, and your cat should gradually regain their full coordination within 24-48 hours.

- Rest and Quiet:** Place your cat in a quiet, comfortable space where they can rest undisturbed. Limit exposure to other pets or children during the first 48 hours to help them recover peacefully.

- Limit Activity:** Restrict physical activity for at least 10-14 days following surgery. Avoid letting your cat run, jump, or play roughly, as this can cause stress on the incision site and delay healing.

- Hydration and Feeding:** Offer fresh water and a small amount of food when you get home. It is normal if your cat's appetite is slightly reduced for the first day or two, but they should start eating and drinking regularly within 24-48 hours.

Dietary Guidelines

- Post-Surgery Feeding:** Offer soft, moist food (such as canned food) for the first 24-48 hours after surgery in small amounts. Nausea is a common side effect of anesthesia and appetite may be reduced.

- Normal Diet:** Once your cat is eating and drinking normally, you can return to their regular diet.



Pain and Discomfort

•**Signs of Pain:** It is normal for your cat to experience mild discomfort after surgery, such as slight lethargy or a decrease in activity level. If your cat seems to be in significant pain, refuses to eat or drink, or is overly vocalizing or hiding, please contact us immediately.

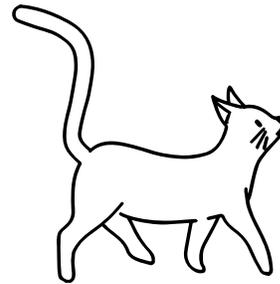
•**Pain Medication:** Typically only one injection of pain medication after surgery is all they need to recover so no medications will need to be given at home. However, if prescribed, administer any pain medication as directed. Do not alter the dosage or stop giving the medication without consulting us first.

Incision Care

•**Inspect the Incision:** Check the surgical site daily if possible for signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, or discharge. Some mild swelling and redness around the incision are normal in the first few days, but it should gradually decrease.

•**Prevent Licking or Biting:** To prevent your cat from licking or biting at the incision, we recommend using the Elizabethan collar (cone) we will send home with your pet. This helps ensure the area heals without interference. Other protection devices such as surgical suits are another great option.

•**Bathing:** Do not bathe your cat or allow the surgical site to get wet for at least 10-14 days. Keep the incision clean and dry.



Signs to Watch For

While most cats recover well from neuter surgery, it is important to monitor for any unusual signs. If you notice any of the following, please contact us immediately:

•**Excessive Bleeding:** A small amount of blood or blood-tinged fluid from the incision is normal. However, if bleeding continues or is excessive, please contact us right away.

•**Swelling or Discharge:** Mild swelling is common in the first few days, but if the swelling worsens or if you notice yellow, green, or foul-smelling discharge, please let us know.

•**Loss of Appetite:** If your cat refuses to eat or drink for more than 24 hours after surgery, please contact us for advice.

•**Vomiting or Diarrhea:** These symptoms can sometimes result from anesthesia or medication. If they persist for more than 24 hours, contact us.

•**Behavioral Changes:** If your cat becomes unusually lethargic, hides excessively, or is in distress, please contact us to ensure everything is progressing as it should.

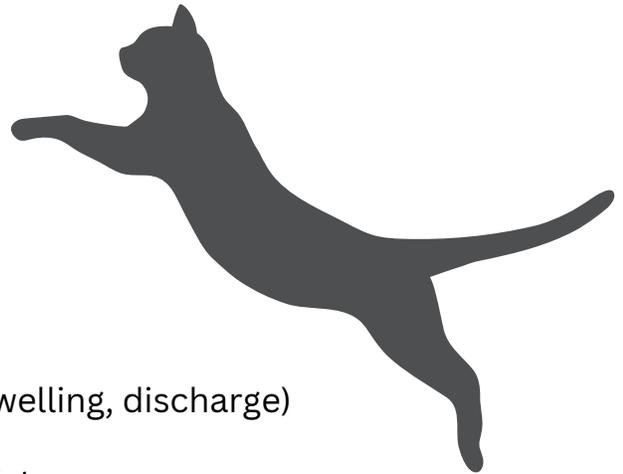
Follow-Up Care

•**Re-check Appointment:** We typically do not schedule any follow-up appointments but if you have concerns regarding your pets healing process or health an appointment can be set up with the doctor

When to Contact Us

If you notice any of the following, please contact us immediately at **207-797-4747** or **westbrookah@gmail.com**:

- Excessive bleeding or discharge from the incision
- Difficulty breathing or excessive panting
- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours
- Refusal to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Any signs of infection at the incision site (redness, swelling, discharge)
- Unusual behavioral changes or signs of significant distress



We are committed to helping your cat recover comfortably and quickly. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for trusting Westbrook Animal Hospital with your cat's care!

Warm regards,

The Westbrook Animal Hospital Team

Phone: 207-797-4747

Email: westbrookah@gmail.com

