

Westbrook Animal Hospital

Post-Operative Care Instructions for Your Cat's Spay Surgery



Dear Cat Parent,

Thank you for trusting us with your cat's spay surgery. This procedure is a common and important part of ensuring your cat's long-term health and preventing unwanted pregnancies. Below are important instructions to follow as your cat recovers at home.

General Recovery Guidelines

- Anesthesia Recovery:** Your cat may still be groggy or disoriented from the anesthesia for several hours after surgery. This is normal, and she should be fully recovered within 24-48 hours.

- Rest and Quiet:** Place your cat in a quiet, comfortable space to rest after surgery. Keep her indoors in a calm environment and away from other pets or children for at least 48 hours.

- Limit Activity:** Avoid letting your cat jump, run, or play for 10-14 days after surgery. Physical activity can put stress on the incision and delay healing.

- Hydration:** Offer your cat small amounts of fresh water immediately after the procedure. If she is drinking normally and acting comfortably, you can offer a small meal of her regular diet.

Dietary Guidelines

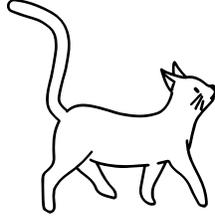
- Feeding After Surgery:** Your cat may not be very hungry immediately after surgery, which is normal. Offer soft food or canned food in small portions. You can resume her regular diet once she is eating normally again.

Pain and Discomfort

- Signs of Pain:** Some discomfort is expected after spay surgery, but it should be mild. Common signs of discomfort include slight lethargy, reluctance to move, or a decrease in

appetite. If your cat seems in severe pain, is constantly vocalizing, or is having difficulty moving, please contact us.

•**Pain Relief:** Typically a pain injection after surgery is all your cat will need to recover but if we prescribed additional pain medication to ensure your cat's comfort please administer this medication as instructed, and do not stop or adjust the dosage without our guidance.



Incision Care

•**Inspect the Incision:** Check the surgical incision area daily if possible for any signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, excessive discharge, or increased warmth. A small amount of swelling, redness, and discharge is common in the first few days.

•**Prevent Licking or Biting:** It's important that your cat does not lick or bite at the incision site. We will send home an Elizabethan collar (cone) to prevent her from disturbing the area, keep the cone or other protective device such as surgical recovery suit on for 10-14 days.

•**Bathing:** Do not bathe your cat or allow her to get the incision wet for at least 10-14 days after surgery. Keeping the incision dry is essential for proper healing.

Signs to Watch For

Please watch for the following signs and contact us immediately if you notice any of them:

•**Excessive Bleeding:** A small amount of blood or a few drops of blood-tinged fluid from the incision is normal, but excessive or persistent bleeding is not.

•**Swelling or Discharge:** If the incision site becomes unusually swollen or if you notice discharge (especially yellow, green, or foul-smelling), please contact us.

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

•**Vomiting or Diarrhea:** These can be signs of a reaction to anesthesia or medication, and we recommend contacting us if either occurs.

•**Behavioral Changes:** If your cat seems excessively lethargic, is hiding, or has difficulty walking or moving, please let us know.

Follow-Up Care

•**Re-check Appointment:** We typically do not schedule any follow-up appointments but if you have concerns regarding your pet's 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**:

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



We want your cat to heal quickly and comfortably. If you have any questions or concerns during her recovery, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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

Warm regards,

The Westbrook Animal Hospital Team

Phone: 207-797-4747

Email: westbrookah@gmail.com

