



North Bay and District Humane Society Pet Clinic

2060 Main Street West • Box 1383 • North Bay, ON • P1B 8K5
Phone: 705-474-1251 Email: clinic@northbayhumanesociety.ca

Post-Operative Instructions

1. Your pet has undergone a general anaesthetic. Some pets are still groggy and possibly a bit wobbly from the medications used. They should be kept away from stairs and not allowed to jump onto or off of any furniture, into vehicles etc. for 24 hours. It is normal for your pet to experience mild shaking or shivering after surgery. This is commonly caused by the lingering effects of anesthesia, temporary changes in body temperature or mild discomfort as they recover. Keep your pet in a safe, WARM, comfortable location overnight.
2. You can offer your pet a small amount of water then food once they are home. Don't overdo it the first night as some pets may vomit because they have been previously fasted. They have undergone a major surgery. Therefore, some pets require extra special encouragement if not eating as well in the days following the procedure. (Use your best judgement for what is appropriate for your pet.) Contact us if your pet is not eating or drinking at all within 24 hours.
3. It takes up to two weeks for some pets to fully recover from their surgery. During this time it is **important to reduce activity** such as running and jumping. If you have a very active dog, a short leash walk may help to calm an active mind. Too much movement can lead to increased discomfort or swelling. (Cats - "seroma" which is fluid under the incision and male dogs may get scrotal swelling).
4. The incision should remain clean and dry. Your pet should not be bathed or allowed to swim for two weeks following the procedure. If the incision becomes dirty you can gently wipe it off using a clean wet cloth and pat dry. It is also not necessary to apply any products (ex. Polysporin) to the incision as it may encourage licking.
5. It is **very important to discourage licking**. **EXCESSIVE** licking leads to redness and swelling at the incision site.
6. You may see a small amount of dried blood on the incision or some minor bruising. These should start to disappear within the first 48 to 72 hours. **Sutures are buried and will dissolve on their own.** (You will not see any sutures present at incision site.) You may occasionally see a knot that has come to the surface. This is not a cause for concern. It will dissolve.

PLEASE NOTE: MALE CATS *DO NOT HAVE* SUTURES OR GLUE. It is extremely important that he is not licking the incision site.

7. A minor cough/raspy noise may be noted in some patients for several days after intubation.

8. POST-OP MEDICATION

Felines are administered a short-term pain relief medication (Buprenorphine) which lasts for 3 days. This is a narcotic which may make them sleepy. (THAT IS OKAY!)

Canines are sent home with post-operative medication (Meloxicam). Please read and follow the instructions carefully. Some pets may be more vocal than usual for a few nights following surgery. This is normal and does NOT indicate your pet is in pain.

We will gladly recheck the incision if there are any concerns. You may email photos to clinic@northbayhumanesociety.ca for review. For non-emergency questions or concerns or if you are experiencing an emergency during business hours please call 705-474-1251. For after-hours or weekend emergencies please call 705-492-3274.