Humane Society of Chittenden County
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South Burlington, VT 05403-6753
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clinic@hsccvt.org
www.hsccvt.org

POST SURGICAL CARE - CATS

E-collars:

Female cats: Must wear their e-collar for 10-14 days. The majority of post-op infections and other complications are caused by licking. If your cat licks the incision, this can result in the need for a revision surgery, which can be costly.

Male cats: Do not need to wear an e-collar.

Check the incision site twice daily for 10-14 days. All sutures are internal and will dissolve over the next few months. No rechecks are required unless there are medical concerns.

Female cats: The incision is on the abdomen. There should be no drainage, redness, or swelling.

Male cats: The incision is directly on the scrotum. The skin layer is left open to allow for drainage. This helps reduce swelling and a build-up of blood in the scrotum. Small amounts of discharge/blood spotting is normal for 24-72 hours post-op. Some swelling is normal and should decrease over the next 10-14 days.

Exercise restriction for 10-14 days. Your cat must stay inside for 14 days. Try to keep your cat as calm as possible during recovery. Do not play with your cat during recovery. If your cat is difficult to keep calm, consider keeping them in a smaller part of the house to encourage rest. Keeping lights low and playing calming music playing can also be helpful.

Your cat must stay clean and dry for 14 days. No swimming, bathing, or going to a groomer in this time period. Do not apply any topical ointment to the incision site during the recovery period.

You can feed your cat when you get home. Feed half of a normal amount at first as the medications given for surgery can cause GI upset. You can feed the remainder of their normal meal a few hours later. Feed your pet's normal diet during recovery. Sometimes animals will not want to eat the night of surgery. If they are vomiting and not eating by the next day, feed a bland diet of boiled chicken and cooked white rice for a few days. If no improvement, give us a call.

Please be mindful that weight gain is not uncommon after spay/neuter surgery due to hormone changes. We strongly recommend monitoring your animal's weight closely following surgery, and readjusting food as needed to keep your animal lean and healthy, as obesity can lead to major health complications.

During surgery, your cat will receive a small green tattoo on their abdomen. This permanent tattoo indicates that they have been spayed or neutered and helps veterinary professionals identify altered pets without additional procedures**.**

Keep males away from unspayed females for 30 days. Keep females away from unneutered males for 7 days. Be prepared to keep pets separate during the recovery period.
Vaccines: If your pet received a vaccine at our clinic other than rabies, please discuss a booster vaccine with your regular veterinarian or schedule with our clinic at hsccvt.org or by calling 802-862-0135 x.7.

If you have concerns:

Non-urgent concerns: Call our clinic number at 802-862-0135 x.7. We are able to check voicemails on our phone on weekdays 8-3. Please leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Non-urgent concerns include: loss of appetite or decreased water intake; vomiting; diarrhea; discharge or bleeding from the incision. Do not give human medication to the animal. It is dangerous and can be fatal.

Emergencies/urgent concerns: Call BEVS, the 24-hour emergency hospital at 802-863-2387. Any fees incurred at BEVS would not be the responsibility of HSCC. Emergent concerns include the following: pale gums; depression; unsteady gait or collapse; and labored breathing.

We will make every reasonable effort to treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-operative instructions are followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for follow up as soon as you see any cause for concern.