Humane Society of Chittenden County
142 Kindness Ct
South Burlington, VT 05403-6753
P: (802)862-0135 x7
clinic@hsccvt.org
www.hsccvt.org

POST SURGICAL CARE - DOGS

Your dog MUST wear the e-collar for 14 days. The majority of post-op infections and other complications are caused by licking. If your dog licks the incision, this can result in the need for a revision surgery, which can be costly.
Check the incision site twice daily for 14 days. All sutures are internal and will dissolve over the next few months. No rechecks are required unless there are medical concerns.

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

Male dogs: 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.

Your dog 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.

Exercise restriction for 14 days. Leash walks only. No running around off leash or playing with other dogs in this time period. This gives the tissue time to heal. If your dog is too active during recovery it can prolong recovery or even cause the incision to re-open, which may need to be surgically revised.

You can feed your dog 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, stop giving the Carprofen and feed a bland diet of boiled chicken and cooked white rice for a few days. If no improvement, give us a call.

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.

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 dog will receive a small green tattoo to indicate that they have been spayed or neutered. For female dogs, the tattoo is placed on the abdomen. For male dogs, it is placed on the side of the penis. This permanent tattoo helps veterinarians and animal shelters identify altered pets, reducing the risk of unnecessary surgery in the future.

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 x7.

If you have concerns:

Non-urgent concerns: Email us at clinic@hsccvt.org - include photos if relevant.. 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.