



Nevada Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic Post-Operative Instructions

Your cat or dog has just had surgery. Below are a few instructions you will need to follow to help ensure a trouble-free recovery. **Please take the time to read these instructions and call us if you have any questions or concerns.** Phone numbers and hours are below.

- 1. Feed your pet lightly on the day you take them home. Be sure that your pet has access to water at all times.**
The surgery and anesthesia can upset your pet's stomach. Offer small amounts of food several times during this evening, rather than a large meal. Do not give your pet lots of treats or unusual foods on the day of surgery. If your pet vomits, simply withhold food until the following morning. The next day you may feed your pet normally.
- 2. Discourage your pet from licking the suture site.**
If your pet will not leave the suture site alone, please notify us. Licking can cause infection or irritate the tissues, hindering the healing process.
E-collars are included in the surgical fee. You may also get them at a pet supply store. The e-collar is a plastic collar that prevents licking the incision site. Your pet should wear the e-collar for several days, if not supervised.
- 3. Observe the suture site for healing.**
Check the incision site daily. If you notice a hard lump, it is most likely a reaction to the suture material. This is fairly common in cats, although your dog may also have a reaction.
If the swelling is large or you notice signs of infection, such as pain, redness, or discharge/drainage, please call us for an appointment to recheck your pet.
- 4. Keep your pet indoors for ten days after surgery.**
It is preferable to keep your pet indoors for ten days following their surgery.
Take your dog out for short walks to relieve himself/herself, but limit activity so your dog is not jumping, running, or playing. Remember that your pet has just had surgery and, although they may feel fine, the tissues need time to heal. In case of a spayed female, the sutures are in the abdominal wall and we do not want them to be strained.
- 5. Do not bathe your pet.**
We use external suture glue on both male and female patients. This suture glue can dissolve if an animal comes into contact with water, so please do not give your pet a bath or take him or her swimming for ten days after surgery.
You can use unscented baby wipes to clean your pet if needed.

Spay/Neuter surgery is safe and common, but occasionally an animal will experience a complication. Please call us right away if your pet has any problems or shows any of these symptoms:

Hiding or not moving	Not eating or depressed appetite
Depressed or lethargic	Excessive vomiting or diarrhea
Difficulty urinating	Discharge or bleeding from the incision
Labored breathing	

NHS Clinic: 775-856-2000 ext. 311. Open Monday to Friday from 7am to 5pm. Closed Saturdays and Sundays.

NHS Adoption Desk: 775-856-2000 ext. 301 and 302. Open daily from 11am to 6:30pm.

**Disclaimer: If an emergency occurs outside of regular hours of Nevada Humane Society's clinic, please contact your regular full-service veterinarian or an emergency hospital. You are responsible for the cost of any visits. Nevada Humane Society cannot reimburse any costs for any emergency care or other care at your full-service veterinarian.*

***For emergency care, Sierra Veterinary Specialists is open 24/7 at 555 Morrill Avenue in Reno and can be reached at 775-358-8555.*

Reno: 2825 Longley Lane, Suite B ♦ Reno, NV 89502-5942 ♦ 775-856-2000
Carson City: 549 Airport Road ♦ Carson City, NV 89701 ♦ 775-887-2171
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