

# POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

## Keep 'em Comfy

- **Keep your animal indoors** in a warm, quiet place away from other animals and children for at least 24 hours.
- **Offer a small meal** several hours after arriving home. Slowly increase meal size to the normal amount over the next 24 hours.
- **Start the pain medication provided**, if given, the morning after surgery. *Do not give early*—your animal was given an injection, which will last the first 24 hours. Follow the label instructions. Don't give any over-the-counter medications unless your veterinarian prescribes them.
- **Restrict your animal's activity** for the next 7-10 days. Walk dogs only on a leash. Don't let cats run, jump, or climb.
- **Keep animals dry** for 10 days—no bathing, swimming, or going out in the rain.



## No Licking, Please!

- **Don't let your animal lick or chew** at the incision.
- **If necessary, get a properly fitted Elizabethan collar** from a pet-supply store or your veterinarian and keep it on your animal when you can't directly supervise.

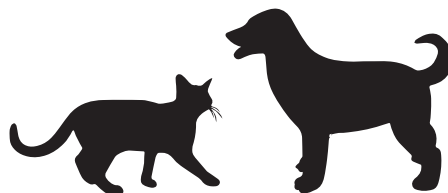


## Things to Watch Out For

- **Check the incision at least twice daily.** A little swelling and redness are expected, but if you notice any drainage or excessive swelling or redness, call PETA's emergency number at 757-297-3938. (*Note: Some neuter surgeries have scrotal incisions that are left open to heal. In that case, some drainage is normal.*)
- **Your animal may vomit and/or have diarrhea** after surgery. If these persist for more than 24 hours, call your veterinarian.
- **Your animal may shake, whimper, and/or feel extremely tired** following surgery. These symptoms should subside within 24 hours.

## Is It an Emergency?

- **Emergencies include continuous bleeding from the incision, continuous vomiting, severe pain, pale gums, and seizures.**
- **Call PETA's emergency number at 757-297-3938,** a veterinarian, or an emergency animal hospital immediately.



## Good to Know

- **We placed a small tattoo on your animal's abdomen** to indicate that he or she has been sterilized. It's a small colored line near the incision or, for male cats, the belly button.
- **Your animal's sutures will dissolve** and do not require removal. Male cats do not require sutures.