



Your pet had surgery today!

POSTOPERATIVE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions, as well as a lot of love, will help them as they recover.

Follow us on social media and leave us a comment if you find a photo of yourself or your pet on our profile

    @animalbalance

Keeping Your Pet Safe

- Keep indoors in a quiet, comfortable area for 24+ hours after surgery (large kennel or small room preferred).
- Prevent disturbance from other animals or children.
- Tiredness, quietness, or disorientation the first night is normal after anesthesia.

E-Collar (Cone)

Dogs must wear it for 10 days to prevent licking/chewing. Licking can reopen the incision and cause infection. Cats should wear it if licking occurs; homemade versions are acceptable (YouTube has great guides).

Eating, Drinking & Medications

- Offer small amounts of water and food the evening after surgery.
- Mild nausea is normal the day of and sometimes day after surgery.
- If your pet refuses food/water the day after surgery, call us.
- Follow all medication labels exactly as directed; do not skip doses or stop early unless instructed by a veterinarian.
- Call if your pet reacts poorly to medication.

Activity Restrictions

- Limit activity for 7 days. No running, jumping, rough play, or long walks.
- Separate from other pets in the home during recovery.
- Keep incision dry, no bathing or swimming for 10 days.

Incision Care

- Check the incision twice daily for bleeding, swelling, discharge, opening, or redness.
- Mild discoloration or slight swelling is normal. Call if you notice problems.
- Small green tattoo near incision marks your pet as sterilized.

Bathroom Habits

- Urination: Should return to normal within 24 hours; call if delayed or uncomfortable.
- Defecation: May take several days, especially until appetite fully returns.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If Female & In Heat

- Keep separate from males for 2 weeks.
- Vaginal bleeding/spotting for several days or weeks is normal but should decrease daily.

Nursing Mothers

- Young under 8 weeks: Keep with mother; monitor incision carefully.
- Young over 8 weeks: Separate and encourage solid food *clínica antes de las 5 PM o llame de inmediato.*

Pain or Complications

If your pet seems appears painful, lethargic, or breathing abnormally on the day of surgery, bring them back to the clinic before 5 PM or call immediately. Keep in mind that your pet is recovering from anesthesia and will be acting differently than normal for the first 12 hours or so after surgery.

**ANIMAL BALANCE
EMERGENCY LINE
(949) 429-0742**

Available 24/7 for first 5 days post-surgery. Call twice if no answer; message will be returned within 15 minutes.
After 5 days, contact a regular veterinarian. Animal Balance covers exam costs within 5 days; anything additional requires staff approval.



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