

How To Care For Your Male Dog After Surgery

The Surgery

Neutering of a male dog is considered a major surgical procedure. The surgery requires that the dog be under general anesthesia, or completely asleep and unable to move. In the male dog, an incision is made just in front of the testicles. Both testicles are removed through the incision. The scrotum is not removed and can take several weeks to months to shrink in size. Removal of the testicles prevents the production of sperm so that he will not be able to father any puppies.

What To Expect When You Get Your Dog Home

Some dogs are very active after surgery, others are quiet and mellow. It is common for dogs to vomit after surgery because of the anesthesia. Generally, the vomiting has ceased by the next day. Most dogs will want to eat some the night of their surgery; however, it may be the next day before some dogs will want to eat. Your dog may also look like he has been crying. This is from the eye ointment that we place in the eyes to keep them from drying out during surgery.

Feeding After Surgery

Adult dogs can be given a *small amount of their regular food and a small amount of water at around 8 pm the night of the surgery*. Some dogs will want to gobble down as much food and water as possible because they have not eaten in almost 24 hours. *Overeating can cause vomiting and diarrhea, so it is important to start with small amounts and gradually work back to a regular size meal*. By the next day, your dog can have his regular amount of food and water. Puppies (4 months and younger) are fed shortly after surgery once they are awake and walking. You may feed your puppy as soon as you get home.

Activity After Surgery

It is very important that you limit your dog's activity for at least 7-10 days. He has sutures (stitches) inside his body where the testicles once were and along the inside of the incision. These sutures provide strength to the tissues while they heal. The healing process takes at least seven days. If the sutures are put under any stress from jumping, running, moving too much, or being handled too much, they may break and internal bleeding may occur or the incision may come open. *It is best that he stay indoors for at least 7 days and be confined in a small area to limit activity*. Too much movement can cause swelling and bruising of the scrotum, particularly in larger dogs.

Caring For The Incision. We recommend Ecollars for all surgical patients.

It is natural for your pet to want to lick the incision site and keep it clean. However, *excessive licking can lead to irritation, swelling, and disruption of the sutures*. If this happens, infection could occur or the incision may come open. It is important to check the incision everyday for any swelling, bleeding, discharge, or pain. If he licks the incision too much, you should go to your nearest pet store and purchase an E-collar to prevent him from being able to reach the area.

Stitches

Unless you are told otherwise, your dog does not have external stitches. All stitches are on the inside and the very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue. If you are told that your dog has stitches, he will need to return in 7-10 days to have those removed.

Bathing

Your dog can not have a bath for at least 7 days.

Over The Counter Pain Relievers

We **do not recommend** that you give your pet any over the counter pain relievers such as aspirin, tylenal, ibuprofen, ect. Some of these drugs may be toxic to your pet and many interfere with blood clotting which could cause internal bleeding after surgery. If you feel that your pet needs pain medications, you should purchase the prescription pain reliever that we offer here.

Potential Complications

Neutering of an animal is a very safe surgery; however, *complications can occur*. Swelling and bruising of the scrotum are the most common complications. Normal swelling and bruising will generally start to resolve after several days to one week. If it persists longer please contact us. Please contact us, your regular veterinarian, or an emergency clinic if you notice any of the following: pale gums, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, inappetence, discharge from the incision, bleeding from incision, swelling or pain at the incision, difficulty urinating, bloody urination, coughing, sneezing, labored breathing, or anything else you feel concerned about.

Vaccines and Vaccine Reactions

Vaccines are designed to increase your pet's immunity to certain diseases. No vaccine is 100% effective. It takes at least two weeks for your pet's immunity to increase after being vaccinated. Vaccine reactions can occur with any vaccine. Symptoms include but are not limited to vomiting, diarrhea, swelling of the face and legs, depression, pain at the injection site, difficulty breathing. If you notice any of these symptoms please contact us, your regular veterinarian, or an emergency clinic.

SANTA 678-560-6070
Sandy Springs ER 404-252-7881
GVS 404-459-0903

Cobb ER 770-424-9157
Roswell ER 770-594-2266

Westside ER 770-819-1090
Riverdale ER 770-994-9291

I, acting as owner or agent for the owner of _____, have read and fully understand the discharge instructions listed above. I understand that my failure to follow these instructions may lead to complications and/or delayed recovery.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DO NOT SIGN UNLESS YOU HAVE COMPLETELY READ THIS FORM.

