



**HEARTLAND
ANIMAL CENTER**

Going Home

Many clinics will hold pets overnight to help keep them quiet after surgery, we believe that your pet will be much happier at home with you. Because we release most pets on the same day as surgery, we count on you to help your recover as quickly as possible.

Don't Worry

Your pet has just had some type of surgery/procedure that required a sedative or anesthesia. Pets are very much like people so each pet will tolerate these medications differently. Your pet will not be their usual self for the first couple of days following the surgery/procedure. They may sleep more than usual and may have an upset stomach due to the medicine and may even vomit. Don't worry as this is common.

If your pet vomits excessively or is showing an unusual amount of pain, please call us at (308) 532-4880

Limit Food and Water

First 12 Hours After Surgery

Your pet may have a bit of nausea following surgery and will most likely not be interested in food. We recommend that you not feed your pet until the morning following the surgery. If your pet seems unusually hungry, you may feed a light or small portion the evening of the surgery. Please offer small amounts of water to your pet several times. The medicine we use during surgery has a drying effect on the mouth so many pets are thirsty. Small drinks of water offered several times is much easier on their stomachs. Too much water all at once can cause your pet to vomit. Don't be alarmed if your pet turns up their nose at the water too as their stomach may not be ready for food or water right away. Please do not allow your pet to lick, chew or scratch at the incision area.

Our staff will advise you when to start the pain medication.

Most pets receive pain medication as part of their surgery that lasts 24 hours.

1 Day Following Surgery

Return to a normal feeding and watering schedule. Your pet may still be somewhat sleepy and will most likely be in some discomfort. Follow the instructions on the medications that we sent home with you and remember to not allow your pet to lick, chew or scratch at the incision area. Check the sutures (stitches) for extreme redness or swelling. Some mild redness is normal. Many surgeries do not require external sutures (stitches) as a skin adhesive is used. Look for any discharge from the incision site or if the incision seems to be gapping open. If so, please call us.

Our staff will advise you when you need to return to the clinic for the removal of skin stitches.

Limit Activity

Bathing, swimming, jumping, and running are all off-limits for a little while as these activities can cause damage to healing tissue and can also cause the stitches to tear. Please keep your pet quiet, leash walk and do not allow any of the above listed activities for at least the first week. Keep your pet as calm and quiet as possible for the first several days following surgery as this will help the healing process. Swimming and/or bathing are not allowed until the skin stitches are removed. Your pet will be back to normal in no time.

Again, please call us if you have any questions or concerns or if you see anything that alarms you.

Our number is answered 24 hours a day. (308) 532-4880

Other Instructions: _____

