

# **SOUTH COUNTRY VETERINARY P.C. INC.**

## **Animal Hospital of Assiniboia & Borderland Veterinary Clinic**

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### **Take Home Care Instructions for the Small Animal Spay/Neuter**

- We strongly recommend that your pet be kept near you or in a safe, quiet, somewhat confined area throughout the first night following surgery
- Your pet may still be experiencing effects of general anesthesia upon discharge. Your pet will typically require 18-24 hours to fully recover from these effects and may sleep more than normal during this period. Most animals will be back to normal within 24 hours.
- If your pet appears agitated or out of sorts throughout this 18-24-hour period, isolate him/her from other pets, children and other stressors to allow for adequate rest
- Your pets may not have its regular appetite following surgery and this effect can be normal. Offer free choice water and small amounts of food to tolerance the first 24 hours post surgery. An animal's appetite will usually be back to normal within 24 hours. If your animal refuses water for more than 24 hours or food for more than 48 hours please contact the clinic
- If the animal allows, check the incision site daily for one week following surgery. A small amount of redness and swelling is considered normal for up to 3 days. Excessive swelling and redness, the discharge of fluids or blood or openings in the incision site are of concern and should be reported to the clinic as soon as they are noticed.
- **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR CHEW THE INCISION**  
This can result in the wound becoming infected or the sutures to rupture causing the incision to reopen. If you notice your pet licking or chewing on their incision you must apply the E-Collar we provided whenever you are not able to directly supervise your pet.
- We may have placed a DuoDerm bandage over the incision. This bandage will stay on for 7 to 12 days and will be a barrier to prevent the animal licking the incision. However, if your animal is aggressively chewing the incision, or is able to remove the bandage, you will then want to put on an E-collar to prevent further chewing or licking of the incision.
- The general recovery period for an animal undergoing routine spay or neuter is 7-10 days. It is important to restrict your pet's activity during this recovery period. Excessive running, jumping, swimming, rough play and other strenuous activities should be avoided, especially within the first 3-5 days. We also ask that you do not bathe your pet during this recovery period
- Your pet may experience a mild cough due to the use of a tracheal tube for administration of gas anesthetic. If this occurs, it is considered normal and should clear up within 2-3 days. If the cough worsens or persists longer than 4 days, please call the clinic.
- Your pet may have sutures that will need to be removed in 10 – 14 days. If you are comfortable, you can remove them yourself at home OR you can bring your pet to the clinic and we will remove them for you, free of charge.
- Some pain medications may be sent home with your pet, we will be sure to instruct you as to how to properly give it to your pet.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the recovery period of your pet please call us at any time