



#1 20332 TOWNSHIP ROAD 512  
780-662-2227

## **HEMOCARE INSTRUCTIONS - CAT SPAY**

### **The First Night Postop**

Your pet will be groggy and possibly nauseous from the anesthesia and will probably just want to sleep the first night. If your pet is interested in eating and drinking you can offer free choice water and about ½ of a normal meal. Please keep your pet in a safe area restricted from stairs and furniture or any other safety hazards in your home since they will be unsteady on their feet. Keep other family pets and children away from our postoperative patient so they can relax and sleep.

### **Pain Medications**

Did you know that pain will dramatically slow the healing process?

All of our cat spay patients will go home with Metacam (anti-inflammatory) which is included in your spay price.

Your pet received an injection of Metacam postoperatively so you will start the oral Metacam about 24hours after surgery.

The morphine your cat received for surgery will wear off about 6-8 hours postoperatively.

Side effects of Metacam can include vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite. If this occurs please discontinue the Metacam and call us.

### **Incision Management**

The most important thing you can do for incision healing is to prevent your cat from licking. 99.9% of our feline patients do not lick or chew their incision. If your cat is one of our 0.1% who want to lick their incision please call us to pick up an e-collar. Check the incision twice daily for signs of redness, discharge, pain, swelling and/or odour. If any of these are present please call the clinic.

Typically there are no sutures to be removed.

No bathing for 14 days after surgery.

Incisions can be cleaned if necessary using warm water and cotton balls. Clean only around the incision and never over the actual incision. Rarely will an incision require any cleaning.

## **Eating & Drinking**

Your pet should have resumed normal eating and drinking habits by 24hours postop. If they haven't please call us.

## **Exercise**

Okay...we know that many cats sleep 23 hours a day but please keep in mind for our more active kitties we do want to do the best we can to strongly discourage highwire acts, aerial maneuvers and circus tricks in the first 5 days postop. Keep your cat indoors for sure for 7 days postop. Consider moving litterboxes and food/water to easily accessible locations. Do not encourage any chasing or jumping games. Set up stepping stools/ramps for cats to get on/off furniture easily. Block off access to high spots like cat trees that require climbing and jumping for the first five days postop.

The sutures tying off the blood vessels in your pet's abdomen are very secure but too much activity postop can increase the risk of these sutures being dislodged and bleeding to occur.

The sutures closing the abdomen, subcutaneous tissues and skin are also prone to failure with too much activity in our patients postoperatively. The tissues around the sutures will be irritated postoperatively if too much activity is causing continuous tugging and pulling on these tissues. This will lead to a suture reaction which is a large firm, nonpainful reaction around the suture line. This is not an allergy to suture and it is not an infection – it is a tissue reaction to too much movement around the suture line.

## **Coughing & Throat Irritation Postop**

Some cats will have some throat irritation from the breathing tube during anesthesia. This can be expected for up to 48 hours postop – if it persists longer than that please call the clinic.

### When Is It A Post-Operative Emergency?

1. Signs of pain despite having administered the postoperative pain medication. Some individuals need significantly more pain medication to be comfortable. Please call us immediately if your pet is unable to get comfortable at home after surgery.
2. Repeated vomiting and/or diarrhea needs to be addressed immediately to prevent dehydration and pain.
3. Signs of bleeding may include:
  - a. Weakness
  - b. Shortness of breath
  - c. Pale gums
  - d. Loss of consciousness
4. Signs of abdominal wall incision failure
  - a. Open skin or exposed tissue at incision
  - b. Large swelling at incision area which is soft



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY  
PLEASE CALL 780-662-2227 TO  
GET THE EMERGENCY CONTACT  
INFORMATION OR CALL  
GUARDIAN VETERINARY CENTRE  
AT 780-436-5880