

## Spay Neuter Assistance Program of North Carolina (SNAP-NC)

P.O. Box 278, New Hill, NC 27562

919-783-SNAP (7627)

[www.snap-nc.org](http://www.snap-nc.org)

### **YOUR PET HAS HAD MAJOR SURGERY TODAY! PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

1. **No food tonight for adult dogs.** Anesthesia can cause an upset stomach, and/or vomiting. **All cats, and puppies and kittens** under 16 weeks may have a light meal in the evening. **ALWAYS PROVIDE WATER,** but give in small quantities at first. Expect decreased appetite/water intake the first few days.
2. **Keep your pet indoors in a QUIET, climate-controlled place for at least 3 days.** Your pet may be groggy for the first night (some may become hyperactive and MUST be confined). **Keep your pet away from children, other pets, stairs and other hazards. Strict exercise restriction is required for 10 days.**
3. **Your pet's sutures (stitches) are not visible** and do not need to be removed. Monitor the incision over the next 14 days. **A moderate amount of swelling is normal** as long as your pet has a normal appetite and activity level. **Male dogs** should not be allowed to lick the surgery site - use an E-collar or put men's jockey underwear on (with the tail through the fly) to prohibit licking. **Male cats** will have an open incision and may spot blood for 24 hours. Keep them off of good furniture. Most **female pets** will not bother the incision, but if they do, prohibit licking of the surgical site. All pets will have a green tattoo on their abdomen to permanently identify that they have been spayed/neutered.
4. **Vaccinations:** If this is the first vaccination that your pet has ever received, the pet should have a booster vaccination at your regular veterinarian's office, in 3-4 weeks. We strongly suggest that you **establish a relationship with a local veterinarian in your community** for the long-term health of your pet. **Please also check with your county animal control facility for licensing and rabies vaccination requirements.**
5. **Post Surgical Concerns - IF THERE IS A SURGICAL EMERGENCY, CALL THE DOCTOR AT 919-632-8164.** THIS NUMBER IS FOR SURGICAL EMERGENCIES ONLY – for all other inquiries call the SNAP-NC office at 919-783-SNAP (7627).

You should call immediately if you notice:

- discharge or bleeding or excessive swelling or redness at the surgical site
- removal of internal sutures or "gaping" of the incision
- depression, lethargy, vomiting **after** the first day home.

If your pet was in heat, please protect them from male animals for 3 additional weeks.

SNAP-NC IS A NON-PROFIT MOBILE SURGERY UNIT DEDICATED TO REDUCING COMPANION ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION BY PROVIDING AFFORDABLE SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES TO NORTH CAROLINIANS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

THE SNAP-NC MOBILE VETERINARY UNIT PROVIDES LIMITED VETERINARY SERVICES. THESE SERVICES ARE LIMITED TO THE PRIMARY AND EMERGENCY FOLLOW-UP CARE DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE SURGICAL STERILIZATION OF YOUR PET.

FOR ALL OTHER VETERINARY SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BOOSTER VACCINATIONS, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF HEARTWORM DISEASE, ROUTINE WELLNESS CARE, RADIOLOGY AND HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES, AND EMERGENCIES NOT RELATED TO THE SPAY OR NEUTER SURGERY PERFORMED BY SNAP-NC, PLEASE CONSULT WITH AND ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH A VETERINARIAN IN YOUR COMMUNITY.