



Birchwood Animal Hospital
2595 Portage Avenue | Winnipeg, MB | R3J 0P5
www.birchwoodvet.com | birchwood@mymts.net
(204) 832-1368 | Fax (204) 889-9708

Spay / Neuter Post-Operative Instructions

Should your pet leave the hospital with a bandage on his/her leg resulting from the removal of an intravenous catheter, please remove this upon arriving home or within approximately 30 minutes. Failure to do so will result in excessive swelling of the appendage.

Sutures Your pet has buried absorbable sutures that will dissolve on their own in the next several weeks, therefore you do not need to return for suture removal.

The Incision The surgical incision may swell slightly and become slightly reddened; this is normal. Please contact us if any of the following occur:

- swelling beyond the thickness of a pencil
- bright red in colour
- pain / discomfort
- discharge

Please protect carpeting and furniture as there may be some post-operative blood spotting or discharge.

Licking Please discourage your pet from licking at the incision as this will promote infection. If the licking is persistent despite discouragement, then please call us about obtaining a bitter tasting ointment or an Elizabethan collar.

Feeding A small meal (half the regular portion) may be offered upon arriving home. If this goes well and is kept down you can offer the remainder of a regular meal. Do not be alarmed if your pet refuses to eat, this can be normal for up to 24 hours following surgery. If a poor appetite persists, please call us.

Water Your pet can drink normally and water should not be limited.

Exercise Do not exercise your pet on the evening following surgery. Restrict exercise for dogs to leashed walks for the next week. Thereafter you may resume routine exercise.

Additional Instructions:

CATS How To Stop Aggression After a Vet Visit (Multi-cat households)

- Segregate the kitty returning from the vet in a room alone for at least half a day. That gives him time to self-groom and remove all the icky clinic smell from his fur, which is so offensive to his cat buddies. It also allows the treated cat time to decompress from the stress of the vet visit so he's less on the defensive. All the cats may be more willing to become reacquainted after a cooling off period.
- Use a hand towel to pet-pet-pet the other household cats. Pay particular attention to the best-friend cat, rubbing the towel against his cheeks. This gathers the best-friend cat's signature scent, which can then be rubbed over the vet-visit cat to help re-establish communal family scent.
- Monitor the first several hours of the cats interaction, and segregate the treated cat immediately should there be a cat-bashing/hissy incident.
- For some situations it may be helpful to scent all the cats with a strong-smelling pleasant odor (fresh laundry perhaps) that not only makes them alike, but also distracts them from cat-bashing. For instance, rub your hands with the water from canned tuna, and stroke the back of each cat. That should encourage them to self-groom and potentially groom each other-creating a renewal of the family scent.

<http://cats.about.com/od/amyshojai/a/How-To-Stop-Aggression-After-Vet-Visit.htm>