



## SPAY/NEUTER

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### **FELINE POST-OPERATIVE CARE/INSTRUCTIONS**

**Your animal has had major surgery and will need to be well cared-for afterwards to help prevent complications.**

**Following the instructions below will help ensure your animal has a successful recovery.**

- \*No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity for 7 to 10 days ("recovery period"). Keep the Animal quiet. The Animal must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. It is imperative that the Animal stay warm for 24 hours after surgery. No bathing during the recovery period. Do not apply any topical ointments to the incision during the recovery period.
- \*The day following surgery, the Animal may exhibit symptoms of undergoing an anesthetic event. These symptoms may include slower reflexes, grogginess, head bobbing, dilated pupils, sound sensitivity, light sensitivity, and aggression. Please do not place your fingers in the Animal's crate. It is recommended that when you arrive home that you place the Animal's crate in a warm, small area such as a bedroom or a bathroom, open the crate, and let the Animal come out on their own (do not pull, push, or force the Animal out of the crate). Place food and water next to crate and a litterbox in the small area. Let the Animal readjust in this small area for 24 hours before reintroducing them into your household. The Animal will have a white ID band for TPSN's identification purposes, you can remove this band by pulling the tab on the ID band.
- \*Check the incision site(s) twice daily. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Females have an incision on their abdomen. This incision is held together with suture that dissolves via the body over the next 5 months. On top of the incision there is surgical tissue adhesive that will dissolve over the next 7-10 days. If it is exposed to water it will dissolve, so ensure the area stays dry by patting with a soft cloth, do not rub. Males have two incisions directly on their scrotum. These incisions have no suture or tissue glue, instead they will scab over and heal naturally via the body. If the Animal had an umbilical hernia that was repaired or was cryptorchid (males only) there may be additional incision(s). If it is noted in the paperwork that the Animal received staples, please return in 7-10 days for removal.
- \*Do not allow the Animal to lick or chew at the incision as this can cause irritation/infection. If this occurs, you can apply vanilla extract or bitter apple spray around the incision, not on it, using a Q-tip or your finger. You may need to re-apply the vanilla extract or bitter apple spray multiple times throughout the day. If the Animal is persistently licking even with the vanilla extract or bitter apple spray, you may need to purchase an Elizabethan collar (cone/e-collar). The Elizabethan collar is bulky and the Animal maybe somewhat distressed when initially wearing it – however, this is usually very temporary, and most animals quickly learn to tolerate it. The Animal may have trouble eating or drinking while wearing an Elizabethan collar. If you observe the Animal having difficulty doing so, you may remove the Elizabethan collar temporarily at mealtimes, or provide assistance with eating and drinking – you must, however, provide 100% supervision during this time.
- \*Do not change the Animal's diet during this time. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. DO NOT give treats, junk food, table scraps, milk or any other "people" food during the recovery period as these could mask post-surgical complications.
- \*Lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours after surgery, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal and the Animal should be rechecked by Twin Ports Spay/Neuter or taken to your full-service veterinarian.
- \*The Animal may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery; this is due to the endotracheal tube placed down their airway to help them breathe during surgery.
- \*Females will have their abdomen shaved as well as a small area on their inner left rear leg and/or their front leg(s). Males will have their groin area shaved. If the Animal had an umbilical hernia that was repaired or was cryptorchid (males only) there may be additional shaved areas. The Animal's hair will regrow in these areas.
- \*The Animal received a green tattoo next to their incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin; IT IS NOT AN EXTRA INCISION. DO NOT try to wash or scrub off the tattoo - it is a permanent identification mark. The Animal's hair will re-grow around the area.
- \*The Animal received a complimentary nail trim while they were under for their procedure. This is done not only for the safety of the Animal, but the safety of the Twin Ports Spay/Neuter staff.

\* The Animal received a Meloxicam injection, which is a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID). It will provide pain control and help to decrease swelling. Do not give the Animal over the counter human medications as they can be toxic or fatal to the Animal.

\*Twin Ports Spay/Neuter will see post-surgical rechecks for free. Any additional medication or products, including but not limited to, antibiotics, pain medication, or Elizabethan collars may be prescribed at an additional cost to you.

**TWIN PORTS SPAY NEUTER OFFERS ADDITIONAL PAIN MEDICATION AT THE TIME OF SURGERY FOR AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE – IF YOU DECLINED THIS SERVICE AND THE ANIMAL IS PAINFUL 24 HOURS AFTER SURGERY PLEASE CALL TWIN PORTS SPAY/NEUTER AT (218)-623-6342 TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL PAIN MEDICATION.**

\*Even if all goes well, and you have no questions or concerns during the recovery period, we recommend that the Animal receive a post-surgical examination with Twin Ports Spay/Neuter or your full-service veterinarian 7 to 10 days after surgery. This is to have the incision checked for complete healing, to remove any skin sutures/staples, and to discuss any ongoing care. If the Animal received a vaccine at Twin Ports Spay/Neuter other than rabies, a “booster” vaccine may be needed. You will need to return the Animal to Twin Ports Spay/Neuter or your full-service veterinarian within the correct time frame to receive this booster vaccine (if given in the correct time frame, TPSN charges the cost of the vaccine at the time surgery for the booster vaccine).

\*We will make every reasonable effort to treat the Animal at Twin Ports Spay/Neuter for any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, for minimal cost, if the above post-operative instructions are followed in full. If you decided to seek services at another veterinary facility/clinic, you will be liable for those costs.

\*You may be referred to your regular veterinarian for further treatment or to address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery.

\*Please call 218-623-6342 for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. You can also e-mail a picture of the incision to [medical@northlandspayneuter.org](mailto:medical@northlandspayneuter.org). We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.

\*If you have an emergency after hours please call BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital (located 2314 West Michigan Street Duluth, MN 55806) at 218-302-8000.