



# POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet may be unsteady or groggy tonight. This is normal after anesthesia. Please restrict activity and please do not leave your pet alone for the next 12-24 hours until the anesthesia wears off. If you must leave them for a short period, we recommend confining them to a small room or crate.

Introduce food slowly. Offer only 1/4 of your pet's normal amount of food tonight. If no vomiting occurs after 1 hour, you may offer another 1/4 serving. Please do not allow your pet to free feed after anesthesia, as this causes vomiting. You may resume normal feeding the next morning if no vomiting occurred.

A 24-hour dose of pain medication was given at the time of surgery. We strongly recommend all pets get additional pain control. Do not give human pain medication! These are deadly to pets!

**No baths or swimming for 10 days.** Moisture (from bathing or licking) will cause the sutures to dissolve and promote infection. Please keep the incision clean and dry.

**We strongly recommend all pets wear an e-collar after surgery!** The collar should extend 2 inches beyond your pet's nose and be snug enough to not slide off their head. If you purchase an e-collar from us, ask if you need help placing it on your pet. E-collars must be worn at all times without exception.

**Strict rest is required for the next 10 days.** Dogs should be crated and only be taken out on a leash. Cats should be kept inside for a minimum of 3-5 days. Feral cats are the only exception to this rule and may be released the next day. Complications can occur (seromas, incision opening, swelling, bleeding) if your pet is **overly active**.

Monitor incision site daily for the next 10 days. AluSpray, a silver aerosol bandage, has been sprayed on the incision. If you see silver on your pet's nose/face, or if the silver is missing from the incision, **they have been licking!** If you see more than a few drops of bright red blood, green or yellow discharge, or severe swelling or redness, please email [medical@SAhumane.org](mailto:medical@SAhumane.org). If this is the case, any additional care, procedures, or medications will be an additional charge.

Unless you are told otherwise, sutures are absorbable and do not need to be removed. If your pet has external sutures or staples, you will be informed and this will be noted in your paperwork. These can be removed 7-10 days from surgery. Please email us with a photo of the incision to schedule your removal.

A **permanent green tattoo line** was placed on your pet's skin near the incision, as per SAHS policy. It will be prominent for several days. This is a **permanent** sign that your pet has been spayed/neutered, should they get lost. Feral cats receive a tattoo and have their left ear "tipped".

One episode of vomiting or diarrhea can be normal after anesthesia. **Multiple episodes of vomit/diarrhea with or without blood are not normal and usually not caused by anesthesia.** We recommend you see your **regular veterinarian or emergency clinic** (if after hours) for any severe episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhea. The SAHS cannot treat these issues.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand these post-operative instructions. I agree that any lack of adherence to these can result in complications and I hereby assume financial responsibility. I acknowledge that additional pain medication, e-collar, and strict rest have all been recommended and failure to comply may put my pet at risk. Failure to follow these instructions may result in a recheck exam fee, additional procedures, and additional medications.

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Signature

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Today's Date



# POST-OPERATIVE CONCERNs?

If you have any post-operative concerns, email our Medical Front Desk ([medical@SAhumane.org](mailto:medical@SAhumane.org))

**Please include a clear photo of your pet's incision and answers to the following questions:**

- When did your pet have surgery?
- Has your pet been wearing an e-collar?
- Has your pet been allowed to lick at the incision?
- Has your pet been allowed to exercise since surgery?
- Has your pet been eating/drinking/urinating/defecating normally?
- Have you noticed any discharge/bruising/swelling/bleeding from the incision?
- Have you noticed that the incision is open?

Our medical front desk staff will send a reply as soon as possible.

**Please note that this email is only monitored during regular business hours!**

**If there is an emergency, please seek veterinary care immediately.**

If medical front desk staff is unable to answer your email, they will forward it to a staff veterinarian who will contact you.

If the veterinarian recommends you return for a recheck, please go to the directed facility (not necessarily where your pet had their surgery). An appointment is not required for rechecks.

## SAHS Leeu Naylor Medical Building

4804 Fredericksburg Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78229

## Recheck Hours

11 am - 3 pm Monday-Friday

## Recommended ER Clinic

Animal ER  
4315 Fredericksburg Rd. | 210-737-7380

**\*We do not refund any care provided outside the SAHS\***