

Arkansas Veterinary Clinic
Rick Hittner, DVM

POST-SURGICAL NEUTERING HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

NEUTERING (Castration) of _____ is a procedure that involves the surgical removal of the testicles, which are the male sex organs.

Neutering a young pet at 6-12 months of age prevents development of undesirable characteristics making your pet a more enjoyable family member. Mating and roaming behavior is minimized and decreased fighting and urine marking of furniture, plants, and walls will result. Neutering does NOT cause a pet to get fat or lazy. This comes from overfeeding and lack of exercise.

Personalities ONLY GET BETTER after neutering. Personalities do NOT fully develop until two (2) years of age. Aggressiveness often results from large amounts of male hormone—which is primarily produced in the testicles. Some small amounts are also produced in the adrenal glands—which accounts for the failure of some dogs to become less aggressive after the procedure. The personality will only get better after neutering, but some dogs may still show aggressiveness, especially if not neutered until later in life.

Occasionally a pet will have one or more testicles retained in the abdominal cavity, instead of normal placement in the scrotum. These pets will require more extensive surgery wherein the abdominal cavity must be opened and a search made for the undescended testicle. This condition is called *Cryptorchidism*.

POST-OPERATIVE HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. We highly recommend an Elizabethan Collar “Cone” to prevent licking & chewing at sutures.** These are available at PetSmart. **Restrict jumping/exercise with leash walking as much as possible until the sutures are removed. *There will be additional fees if sutures need to be replaced with or without sedation.**
- 2. Give SMALL amounts of WATER ONLY when you get home and at frequent intervals before bedtime tonight.** Do NOT let your pet drink a large quantity at one time – vomiting will occur.
- 2. NO Food until 6 pm the evening of your pets surgery.** Then give him about half the amount you would normally feed. Anesthesia and abdominal surgery may cause nausea and vomiting if the pet is fed too soon.
- 3. Do NOT give over the counter medications.** These can be toxic to your pet. Additional pain medication can be dispensed if your pet seems uncomfortable.
- 4. Keep your pet WARM & DRY until sutures are removed.**
- 5. Notify the clinic if any of the following occur:**
 - a) Vomiting/Diarrhea after 24 hours.
 - b) Severe pain.
 - c) Any evidence of any significant bleeding from the incision.
- 6. Suture Removal- () Sutures will dissolve. A return visit is not necessary.**
() Suture Removal required in 10 days. (No charge unless sedation required.)

THE OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL CHARGES RESULTING FROM ANY COMPLICATION OF THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

X _____ Date _____