

Welcome to VETCARE

## SURGICAL GUIDELINES FOR ANIMALS UNDERGOING SURGICAL PROCEDURE AT VETCARE

The average recovery after the animal has been operated (spay , neuter , general surgery etc.) is about 10-14 days. For animal underwent orthopedic procedure the recovery time might extend up to 4- 6 weeks.

Try the following to promote recovery surgical ops:

- **Limit Activity and Take Short Walks**

The abdominal muscles and incision will need time to heal, so short leash walks for bathroom breaks only are recommended for a dog that's just been spayed, neutered etc. Therefore, the dog must be kept quiet with leash walks only for the two weeks following the surgery.

- **Monitor the Incision**

The incision for a female dog that's just been spayed will be several centimeters in length. In male dogs after the neutering it is approx. 2-3 cm. The incision must be closely monitored for any signs of infection. Symptoms of an infected wound include swelling, redness or discharge. The incision and underlying structures (i.e. blood vessels, muscles, etc.) will take 10 to 14 days to heal.

- **Clean the Incision 2-3 Times a Day**

For the first 2 to 3 days, dog owners may be advised to clean the incision several times a day using betadine, which can be applied (generously) using a sterile gauze pad to gently pat the dog's surgical incision and surrounding area. This will disinfect the incision and surrounding skin. Allow the betadine to air dry.

Note: This method should only be used on dogs with stitches (a.k.a. sutures) or a staple incision closure.

- **Keep the "Cone" or the post surgical jacket on all the time!**

After a dog is spayed, she will be sent home with an Elizabethan collar, also known as an "e-collar," "lampshade" or "cone." This will prevent the dog

from licking the incision or biting the incision or stitches, as often occurs late in the healing process when the healing skin starts to itch. The "lampshade" must be kept on until the dog's stitches are removed about 14 days after the surgery.

If you notice that the animal's wound is getting red, or the animal finds a way still to reach and lick the wound please ring the Vet and explain him. In some cases maybe the animal will require a bigger size collar.