

Surgical Discharge Instructions – Humane Society for Greater Nashua

Your pet has undergone surgery today. The surgical site may be somewhat swollen, bruised, or mildly pink during the first few days after surgery. Please follow the instructions below to help ensure a safe recovery.

Activity

- Keep your pet quiet and restrict activity for **10–14 days**, or as directed by your veterinarian.
- Dogs should go outside **on a leash for bathroom breaks only**. Avoid running, jumping, rough play, and stairs whenever possible.
- Cats should remain **indoors and confined to a quiet, small area** to prevent jumping and climbing.
- Do not allow your pet to play with other animals during the recovery period.
- Excessive activity can cause bleeding, swelling, or the incision to open.

Incision Care

- Check the incision **at least twice daily**.
- The incision should remain clean, dry, and closed.
- Mild redness, bruising, or a small amount of swelling can occur during the first few days.
- A small amount of firmness beneath the incision may also be present during healing.
- **Do not bathe or swim your pet** until the incision has completely healed.
- Do **not** apply ointments, creams, sprays, peroxide, alcohol, or other products to the incision unless specifically instructed by your veterinarian.

Prevent Licking or Chewing

Your pet must not lick, chew, scratch, or rub the surgical site.

- An **Elizabethan collar (cone)** should be worn as directed, usually continuously until the incision has healed.
- Even a few minutes of chewing can damage the incision or remove sutures.
- If your pet is able to reach the incision while wearing the cone, contact the veterinary hospital for an appropriately sized protective device

Contact Your Veterinarian Immediately If You Notice

- Continuous or excessive bleeding
- Increasing or significant swelling
- Increasing redness or heat around the incision

- Pus, discharge, or a foul odor
- The incision opening or becoming separated
- Missing or broken sutures/staples
- Persistent licking or chewing despite protective measures
- Significant pain, weakness, collapse, or worsening lethargy
- Repeated vomiting or other concerning changes in your pet's condition
- If needed please contact our office during normal business hours at (603) 889-2275

Please seek Urgent or ER care if needed outside our normal business hours.

Veterinary Emergency Center of Manchester: (603) 666-6677

Rockingham Emergency Hospital: 603-870-9770

Westford Veterinary Emergency: 978-557-6525

Veterinary Urgent Care (Nashua): 603-966-3462