

Post Operative Instructions

Bitch Spay

Your dog has been spayed today. This involves the surgical removal of her ovaries and womb, and is performed under a general anaesthetic. Now that you have her home the following instructions should ensure she feels more comfortable and aids a speedy recovery.

- Having had a full general anaesthetic she will probably feel sleepy overnight. She may appear 'normal' but needs quiet and rest for the remainder of the day. Please do not let her do anything tonight, you can take her outdoors later to go to the toilet but this must be all she does, no walks or play.
- We needed to clip the coat on one or both of the forelimbs for her anaesthetic injections to be administered and also on her abdomen around the surgical site. The fur will regrow in 4-6 weeks fully.
- After her anaesthetic although she may appear hungry, she may be feeling a little sick. Therefore, only give her a small meal later tonight, only half the normal quantity and keep it very bland, eg. some chicken, rice or scrambled egg. No treats or rich food as this may make her vomit. After having abdominal surgery we do not want her to put any strain on her wound by vomiting. She can go back to her normal diet tomorrow. Water can be given at all times but no milk or other liquids. Don't be worried however if she doesn't want to eat tonight, her appetite should return by tomorrow. There should be no vomiting or diarrhoea.
- We have given her antibiotics and painkillers today which will be sufficient and no further medication is required.
- She may or may not have stitches or staples in the skin, if so they will need to be removed in 10 days and we should see her sooner if she removes them herself! If not the all her stitches are internal and will dissolve without any intervention.
- Check her wound daily, there should not be any redness, discharge or swelling, and it should not be painful. If it is, you should bring her back for an examination ASAP. Most wound infections or complications occur from the dog licking or chewing at the wound. If she appears to be doing this then she must wear a buster collar and you should contact us to get one as soon as possible. Dogs can open their wounds in a matter of minutes.
- Do not use any creams/ointments on the wound and no swimming or bathing is allowed for 2 weeks.
- You may notice a slight cough over the next couple of days, do not be alarmed. It is usually a result of irritation caused by the tube she had into her airways during the anaesthetic. If it persists please contact us.
- MOST importantly she will have had a considerable amount of stitching internally and therefore must be strictly rested for the next 10-14 days at least. She will probably want to run around and do normal things however, she MUST be on the lead at all times and only a 5-10 minute walk once-twice daily outdoors only for toileting. She must not partake in any running, jumping, stairs or strenuous activity.
- She may have a tendency to gain weight after being spayed, therefore it is advisable to reduce the amount of food slightly to counteract this.

Your next appointment should be made indays