

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### SURGERY AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

1) Your pet's sutures are:

- \_\_\_\_\_ internal and the skin surface is closed with absorbable suture material and sterile tissue glue, so there is no need to return for suture removal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ need to be removed by your regular vet in 7-14 days. If you do not have a regular vet, arrange for suture removal by calling **556-2754**.

2) We have dispensed the following medications (instructions are on the label):

Medication	Purpose

If you would like pain medications for your pet to have on hand just in case and we have not dispensed them, please request them when you pick your pet up. They are free of charge and available to any pet that needs them.

3) Test Results:

**Fecal flotation:** negative hookworms roundworms coccidia tapeworms

**Occult Heartworm Test:** negative positive      **Feline Leukemia Test:** negative positive

4) We identified the following problems that will need attention by your regular vet as soon as possible:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Tonight:

- 5) Your pet may or may not want to eat and drink the first night following surgery. Offer food and water, and let your pet decide.
- 6) Lack of appetite, vomiting, and feeling sluggish is normal after surgery and anesthesia. However, if any of these symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, please call **556-2754** for instructions.

### The Next Couple of Days:

- 7) Some pets will have a mild cough following surgery. The throat can be irritated from having a tube placed in the airway to deliver oxygen during anesthesia. If the cough is severe or accompanied by other signs of illness (poor appetite, lethargy, nasal discharge, etc.), please let us know by calling **556-2754**.

- 8) Keep your pet in a warm, dry, quiet place, away from other pets and small children for at least 48 hours. Pets should not be left outside the night after surgery, and can be returned to living outside when they are feeling well and eating well.
- 9) Although most pets are not bothered by their incision, a few want to lick or chew at it. Do not allow your pet to do this, as it can disrupt healing. Applying hot sauce or bitter tasting products around the incision often helps. If your pet insists on licking or chewing, an Elizabethan collar (e-collar like a lampshade) is needed. E-collars are available here at no charge by calling **556-2754**, or are available at most pet supply stores.
- 10) Mature male dogs have the highest incidence of minor post-operative complications following neutering, such as:
  - i) Licking & chewing - About 20% of neutered males will insist on licking and/or chewing at the incision as noted above. If you need an E-collar, please come get one. You must bring your dog with you so that we can fit your dog with the proper size, and show you how to put the collar on and take it off.
  - ii) Swelling & bruising - Almost half of mature males will swell and bruise a little bit. This is to be expected, and will likely resolve over the next few days.
  - iii) Intra-scrotal bleeding (hematoma) - About 10% of neutered males will ooze some blood and serum from the capillaries inside the scrotum. Very rarely, the scrotum may look even larger than before the testicles were removed. If any significant swelling occurs, the sooner we see the dog, the better. We can put a bandage on the dog that can stop swelling and even reverse it if caught soon enough. If for some reason you can't get in for a bandage, while quite remarkable looking and at least moderately uncomfortable, the problem is not life threatening, and will usually resolve in three to ten days. Pressure from the fluid causes the capillaries to clot, and the body will eventually re-absorb the fluid.
- 11) Warm compresses – If your dog swells, bruises, or seems painful, applying warm compress to the area will help reduce pain and swelling, and speed healing. You can wet down a washcloth or dishtowel with very warm (almost hot) water. Wring it out, put it in a sealed Ziploc bag and hold it against the area for five to ten minutes. This should be done two to four times a day, as needed.

### **This Week:**

- 12) Discourage your pet from running, jumping, and rough play for one week. That means no spinning, no Frisbee, no sliding across the floor, no chasing the cats, no chasing squirrels, no chasing the dogs, no chasing varmints of any kind. Don't even think about it.
- 13) Check your pet's incision daily. A little lump or redness is normal. However, if there is bleeding, discharge, swelling or gaping, please call **556-2754** for instructions.
- 14) Absolutely no swimming, baths, or playing in water or mud is allowed for seven days.

### **The Next 30 Days:**

- 15) Hormones in mature male dogs and cats will remain in their system for two to three weeks following neutering, so behavior changes will be gradual. In other words, these boys may continue to seek out the girls for awhile. Rarely, they never stop doing this. Some habits are hard to break.
- 16) Female dogs spayed while in heat or pregnant may continue to have vaginal discharge for up to two weeks following surgery. This means that if your pet was in heat, she may continue to attract males for two to three weeks following surgery. Do not allow breeding, as this could tear internal sutures and cause serious internal bleeding and even death.