

## **Aftercare Instructions for Spay or Neuter Surgery**

*Please review the following information to care for your pet after spay or neuter surgery.*

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

Questions or concerns during business hours:

- Call the clinic at **(559) 338-1767**. If there is no answer please leave a message with your name and number so we can get back to you. The phone line is monitored Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm.
- Email the clinic at [info@cornerstoneac.org](mailto:info@cornerstoneac.org). Our email inboxes are monitored, and responses will be provided Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm. Please be sure to include pictures and a detailed description of your concern in your email, including how long the issue has been happening.

Urgent concerns or concerns after business hours:

- **If you are concerned about your pet and need guidance on whether to seek emergency care, we recommend the teletriage service Vet Triage.** This site allows you to videoconference with a licensed veterinarian who can help you decide whether your pet requires emergency care, an appointment, or can be monitored or treated at home. Please refer to the Vet Triage instructions given to you by Cornerstone staff at checkout. With our code, a consultation is \$25.

Emergencies:

- **If your pet needs immediate emergency care (unresponsive, trouble breathing, lethargic, pale gums, excessive bleeding, etc.), seek emergency care immediately –**
  - VISALIA: Tulare/Kings Veterinary Emergency Services; P:(559) 739-7054- Open M-Th 12am-7am, Fri-Sun 24 hours.
  - FRESNO: 24/7 PetVets – 1639 N Fresno St.; P:(559) 486-0520 – Open 24 hours
  - BAKERSFIELD: VCA Bakersfield Animal Hospital; P: (661) 327-4444- Open 24 hours

### **RECOVERY TONIGHT**

- Your pet received general anesthesia and morphine-type pain medications today.
- Please let your pet recover tonight in a safe, warm, quiet place away from stairs, children or other pets.
- You may observe drowsiness, shivering or trembling, whimpering or whining, and nausea for the next 12 hours.
- Some cats may have dilated pupils or “glassy” eyes.
- Your pet should be feeling and acting normally by tomorrow morning.

### **FOOD**

- Offer a small meal tonight.
- Do not be alarmed if your pet is not interested in food this evening; nausea is common after anesthesia.
- Your pet should be eating and drinking normally by tomorrow morning.

### **INCISION CARE**

- The incision must remain clean and dry for 7 days.
- Licking and chewing will lead to pain, infection, and failure of the stitches.
  - Your pet must wear an e-collar at all times for the next 7 days: we do not recommend ‘donut’ e-collars or ‘surgery suits’.
  - Do not allow other pets in the household to chew or lick the incision.
- Inspect the incision in the morning and evening. Look for redness, swelling, discharge, bad odor, or opening
- No swimming or bathing for 7 days – do not soak the incision when bathing.
- Your pet’s stitches are under the skin and will dissolve; they do not need to be removed.

**ACTIVITY: Limited activity is critical to allow healing after surgery.**

**DOGS**

- Short walks on-leash only for 7 days.
- No running, jumping, or rough-housing.
- No playing with toys, no chasing the ball.

**CATS**

- Limit activity for 7 days. No playing with toys or rough-housing.
- Females: If possible, keep your female cat indoors for the next 7 days.

**MEDICATIONS**

- In some cases, we will prescribe a pain medication to give at home.
- *If* your pet has a medication, please give the first dose at home with food and follow the directions on the label.
- Discontinue the medication(s) and contact us if your pet has vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite.

**FOLLOW-UP CARE:** Please note that Cornerstone Animal Center cannot provide financial assistance for any care required due to non-compliance with these aftercare instructions or any other condition not directly related to a surgical complication, as deemed by one of our veterinarians.

**WHAT IS NORMAL AND EXPECTED AFTER SURGERY?**

The following are expected in some patients after surgery. These conditions should be monitored closely, but generally do not need to be evaluated by a veterinarian.

- Mild redness, bruising, or swelling around the incision. These should resolve in 5-7 days.
- Mild redness or irritation of the shaved skin. This can be caused by shaving and should resolve in 3-5 days.
- A small, firm bump under the incision that is not red, painful, or warm to the touch. This can be the result of a minor reaction to the stitches and should resolve in 7-14 days as the stitches dissolve.
- Your pet may not defecate for 24-48 hrs.

**WHAT IS NOT NORMAL?**

The following are not expected after surgery and should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

- Redness, warmth to the touch, and/or pain of the incision more than 24 hours after surgery.
- Swelling of the incision that comes and goes, or flattens out when your pet moves into different positions. This could be a sign of a hernia and must be addressed as soon as possible.
- Discharge, odor, or opening of the incision.
- Any signs of illness, including vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, pale gums, unsteady gait, difficulty urinating or defecating, or labored breathing.

**WHAT IS A SEROMA?**

- A seroma is a build-up of fluid between the muscles and the skin under an incision.
- This common complication occurs as a result of too much activity.
- A seroma will generally resolve on its own without treatment within 7 to 10 days.
- Swelling that is not painful, is not red, is not hot to the touch, and does not go away when you apply gentle pressure *may* be a seroma.
- If your pet has a seroma, restrict his or her activity and use sedative medications if prescribed. If tolerated, apply a warm compress to the area for 5-10 minutes, 2-3 times per day.



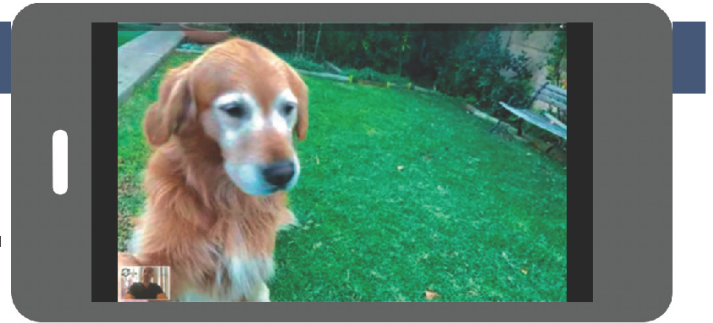


## Cornerstone Animal Center offers after-hours and emergency assistance to clients by partnering with VetTriage

When you have a pet health concern, VetTriage veterinarians are on standby 24 hours a day to assist. For a small fee, you will be connected to the VetTriage veterinarians on a live video chat session. They will triage your pet and give you at-home care guidance, or if they determine hospital care is necessary, coordinate in-person emergency care.

### Steps to Connect:

- 1 Go to [www.vettriage.com/cornerstone](http://www.vettriage.com/cornerstone) using your mobile device or computer with camera.
- 2 Follow the instructions on the VetTriage page to purchase your session, if given a coupon code from the Cornerstone staff enter it at Step 2 and then purchase and request your session.
- 3 The vet will join in minutes and triage your pet.



[www.VetTriage.com/cornerstone](http://www.VetTriage.com/cornerstone)

