



Post De-sexing Procedure Homecare

What Happened Today?

Your pet has been de-sexed today, which means they have had a general anaesthetic. Their reproductive organs (the ovaries and uterus for females; the testicles for males) have been removed and you will see some stitches on their tummy or groin (note: male cat de-sexings do not have stitches). This procedure involves internal surgery so therefore they will need special care for some time afterwards to ensure they recover quickly. Unfortunately our pets do not always understand that they must rest so we need you to assist with their recovery.

Immediately After

When you pick your pet up from hospital they may be a little quiet or drowsy. This is quite normal following an anaesthetic, and you should expect this to reduce over the next 12-24 hours.

At Home

Keep them in a quiet, warm place and offer water and half of their normal amount of food that they would eat this evening. If they eat this and seem to want more, wait about an hour before offering them the rest of the food. Sometimes our pets are a little nauseous after an anaesthetic.

Make sure your pet does not lick the wound site as it can cause issues with healing. If they do, we will need to fit a 'bucket' (Elizabethan Collar) to their head to prevent this. These can be purchased at the clinic.

Your dog has been sent home with one dose of additional pain relief. Your vet will prescribe and explain the dose needed for your dog. These instructions will also be printed on the medication.

Your cat will have had an injection of pain relief that lasts for the same amount of time and therefore does not need an additional dose.

Should you feel your pet is in any discomfort after this dose has been given or after the injection has worn off, please contact the team.

Take care

Most pets will have recovered fully within a few days. Unfortunately this does mean that they may start jumping, running around and generally trying to do everything they can

to upset the surgery site and the stitches. Please try to keep them as quiet as possible until the stitches are removed.

You should not walk your dog for 4-5 days after their operation. You should keep your cat inside. No bathing or swimming until the stitches have been removed.

Problems

Please let us know if you notice any of the following:

- Your pet is dull or listless
- Excessive redness or irritation around the surgery site
- Swelling or lumpiness around the surgery site
- Odour
- Bleeding

As this can indicate a problem with healing, and we will need to see them as soon as possible.

What next?

We will need to see your pet in approximately 7-10 days (as advised by our team at your discharge appointment) to check the wound site and see if the stitches are ready to be removed. Please see one of our friendly staff to make an appointment.