

# Humane Society AC Spay/Neuter Clinic

## Post-Operative Instructions



**Please read all instructions at time of discharge.**  
**Call HSAC with any questions/concerns at (609) 348-8076.**

Provide only small amounts of food and water the day after surgery. Too much food or water can lead to an upset stomach or vomiting.

### **Dog Information:**

Your dog has been properly fitted with an Elizabethan collar. **This collar must be kept on for seven to ten days after surgery.** Your pet can eat, drink, sleep, and walk comfortably while wearing the collar. This collar ensures your pet cannot lick or chew at its surgical site. Damage to the site or infection of the skin around it can result from licking. If your pet removes their sutures, they will need to return for anesthesia, surgical repair, and medications at an additional fee to you.

Dogs must be leash-walked when outside for the next seven to ten days. Do not allow them to jump on/off furniture, run up and down stairs, or otherwise get too excited because this can cause complications leading to additional medications and treatment. It is very important that all exercise and play-time is limited. Minor swelling, such as a hematoma or seroma (non-painful swelling near the incision or in the scrotum), redness, and/or bruising can be normal and resolve without treatment, especially with mature or active animals.

Your dog's sutures will dissolve on their own and do not need to be removed. They can take up to four months to fall out, but can be removed after ten days if your pet is bothering the incision area. Be sure to check the incision area for redness, swelling, or drainage. Call HSAC at 609-348-8076 if you notice anything of concern.

### **Cat Information:**

Cats must be kept indoors for seven to ten days after surgery. Elizabethan collars are not typically used with cats; however, they may be purchased at the owner's request if the cat is chewing or licking at its incision. Try to discourage jumping and climbing. Female cats have sutures which will dissolve on their own and male cats do not have sutures. It is recommended that you use either pellet cat litter or place shredded paper over your existing cat litter to prevent the litter from sticking to your pet's incision for the first week. Check the incision area daily for swelling, redness, or drainage. Call HSAC at 609-348-8076 if you notice anything of concern.

If your pet received a Distemper, Feline Leukemia, or Lyme vaccine, they may need booster vaccines. These are generally needed three weeks after the initial vaccine. These can be done by our Veterinary Services department Monday through Friday by appointment by calling 609-348-8076, in our walk-in wellness clinic Saturdays from 9am to 12pm, or at your regular veterinarian. The Humane Society of Atlantic County operates a full-service veterinary hospital that is open to everyone.

If you have any concerns, please call our Veterinary Services department at 609-348-8076. We will be happy to assist you in any way. The Humane Society of Atlantic County is a private non-profit organization that hires experienced NJ-licensed veterinarians. **The Humane Society of Atlantic County will not reimburse any money paid to any other facility for any reason.** Please feel free to contact us with any and all questions or concerns.

Special Instructions:

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**(609) 348-8076 (609) 347-2487 (609) 344-0346 Fax: (609) 344-0369**  
**humanesocietyac.org**