

Austin Pets Alive! Spay/Neuter: Post Op Instructions
Please read thoroughly and ask any questions before you leave.

1. **Keep an eye on the incision.** Check it a few times a day to look for any signs of infection (redness, swelling, hot to the touch, persistent oozing/bleeding). If you're worried it is infected, take a good picture of it and email it to the med techs at medicalreception@austinpetsalive.org. **Please include your pet's shelter name and A#.**
****Male dogs and cats** will have an **incision left slightly open** to drain and prevent infection, therefore a **mild amount of drainage is to be expected for 24-48hrs after surgery.**
2. **Limited activity.** Try to limit activity for about 7-10 days - no rough playing, limited running and jumping. The calmer you can keep your pet, the less likely they are to tear open the incision.
3. **Lumps and bumps.** Females (abdominal surgery) have absorbable sutures under the skin and have skin glue over top that you will see. It may appear hard and brittle. If you see a knot at the incision site, don't be alarmed (it will go away on its own). If it starts getting bigger/fluid-filled, let us know. Males (scrotal incision) will have the same skin glue over the incision. Large dog neuters may have some discharge at the incision site for 24-48 hours - this is totally normal.
4. **Bruising.** Your dog or cat was given pain medication today via injection. There may be some bruising at the site of the incision. This is normal.
5. **LICKING = INFECTION.** Do NOT let your pet lick at his/her incision site. The best way to prevent this is by purchasing an Elizabethan-collar (pet cone/cone of shame) from PetSmart, Petco, etc. Make sure it is a little bit longer than his/her nose. **Keep the cone on for 7-10 days**, even while they are sleeping to make sure that they do not get to their incision site. A few days of discomfort are better than an open incision site!
6. **Dirty incisions.** You can clean **around the incision** with a soft cloth & hydrogen peroxide, but **don't put anything directly on it.** Your best bet is to leave it be and let it heal on its own.
7. **Pain medication.** Each animal received a post op pain shot. We will also send you with some pain meds. Start this tonight around 8 or 9pm **after** your pet has eaten. DO NOT use any other pain medications other than what we have sent with you. Many would be **toxic** if given in combination with the injectable pain med your pet received already.
 - All dogs: Gabapentin (pill form). You can disguise it in peanut butter, cheese, etc.
 - Female cats: Gabapentin (oral liquid). This is not tasty (might foam at the mouth when you give it), but she will be better off.
 - Larger male dogs may be sent with Rimadyl for inflammation, but cats don't get any additional pain meds (quickest, least invasive)
8. **Feeding.** Your pet received general anesthesia today- may be a little groggy for the rest of the night. Start him/her off slow- first just water then half of their normal feeding. If he/she keeps that down, go ahead and feed a full meal. You can start feeding normally tomorrow. Your pet may be nauseous from surgery and may vomit that first night. Let us know if it continues the next day. **If your pet doesn't start eating normally within 48 hours contact us immediately.**
9. **No swimming or bathing.** We want the incision to be fully healed before it gets wet. No swimming or bathing for at least 7-10 days.
10. **Green line next to the incision.** Your pet got a tattoo today! This is a universal sign that the animal has been fixed if it is ever questioned in the future. It may smear around a little right now, but that will go away.
11. **Legally yours!** If you are adopting, you will receive an email from our Records Department within **5-7 days** with updated medical records and information on how to switch your pet's microchip to your name. All veterinary care will now be through your private vet. Thank you for helping save a life

If you have any concerns about the incision during the healing process please email photos to
medicalreception@austinpetsalive.org.

If you need urgent assistance, please call the medical clinic at (512) 466-0720. If it is after hours(9am-7pm) and is an emergency, please call our emergency line at (888) 733-8840 - this is for emergencies only!

Vaccines received:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DAPP (dog) | <input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP (cat) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bordetella (dog) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabies |

Preventatives received:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flea | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongid (dewormer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heartworm | |

Medications:

- ☐ Pain medication (Gabapentin) to start **TONIGHT** (Note: male cats do NOT receive these)
 - ☐ Anti-inflammatory medication (Carprofen) to start **TOMORROW**
- (Note: not all animals receive these)
- ☐ Other medication(s) _____

Additional notes: