

**Novey Animal Hospital
Dr. Patricia Novey, DVM
Dr. Angela Coleman-Wiebe, DVM**

Date: _____

SURGICAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANINE SPAY

Patient: _____

Your dog is recovering from major surgery, which requires continued nursing care at home in order to ensure a successful outcome. Your job in the recovery period at home is just as important as the procedure we just completed. This care at home mainly entails **restriction of activity** because your dog does not understand the significance of the recovery period. She will become very active in a short period of time, and confinement indoors by you is of the utmost importance! This entails:

**No jumping or running
No playing with other pets**

**No stair climbing
No "rough housing"**

When your pet is discharged, she may still be groggy from the anesthesia. She may appear depressed, wobbly and may tremble. She should be allowed to recover in a quiet room at home away from other pets. Check on her progress intermittently. First offer only small amounts of water, and if she seems alert and hungry, offer small amounts of food (~ 1/3 of usual meal). Every pet recovers differently; some pets may not want anything at all the first night. If your pet vomits, withhold food until the next morning. Call our office immediately if vomiting persists. By the next morning she should be alert and have a normal appetite. She can then be fed her normal volume of food.

Occasionally, coughing and gagging can result from the endotracheal tube used in the throat to administer the anesthesia. This usually resolves without any medication, but if it persists, contact our office. You may also notice shaved areas on your dog where we applied an IV catheter and various sensors to monitor her heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood pressure during surgery. These areas will re-grow hair within a few weeks. If we prescribed pain medication for your dog, please give it as directed to make her more comfortable.

Do not bathe your dog during the 10 day recovery period. When your dog goes outside to eliminate, she must be on a short leash and returned indoors immediately. If your dog is to be left alone, she must be confined to a cage or other small area. The strict confinement must be continued during the entire convalescent period. Excessive activity often leads to re-injury or serious complications that may necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your dog.

Observe the incision daily for signs of redness, swelling, or discharge. Please call us if any of these symptoms are evident. The incision should look better daily. If your dog is licking at the incision area, a T-shirt of appropriate size may be placed on the dog to cover the incision. We also have various sizes of protective collars to keep your dog from licking the incision. Licking can lead to inflammation, and dogs can chew out sutures in a matter of minutes. Call us as soon as possible if this occurs, because this can result in an infection that may require hospitalization. In general, your dog should improve gradually each day. If her condition suddenly worsens please call us as soon as possible.

If you have questions or concerns during your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call our office at 878-8800. If you need advice after hours, please call Allied Emergency Hospital at 222-0123.

Please schedule a time for a technician to check the incision site and remove any external sutures in about 10 days. (note: some pets do not have external sutures)