

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

Date: _____

SURGICAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FELINE NEUTER

Patient: _____

Your cat is recovering from major surgery, which requires continued nursing care at home in order to ensure a successful outcome. Your job during the recovery period at home is just as important as the procedure we just completed.

When your pet is discharged, he may be groggy from the anesthesia. He may appear depressed, wobbly and may tremble. He should be allowed to recover in a quiet room at home away from other pets. Check on his progress intermittently. First offer only small amounts of water, and if he seems alert and hungry, offer small amounts of food (~1/3 of usual meal). Every pet reacts 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, he should be alert and have a normal appetite and can then be fed his normal volume of food. If we prescribed pain medication for your cat, administer it as directed to make him more comfortable.

Care at home mainly entails **restriction of activity** for a few days because your cat does not understand the significance of the recovery period. He 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"

If your cat is to be left alone, he must be confined to a cage or other small area such as a child's playpen or a shower stall. This strict confinement must be continued during the entire convalescent period. Excessive activity often leads to injury or serious complications that result in infection at the surgical site. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your cat.

Do not bathe your cat during the first 10 days of recovery. Observe the scrotum daily for signs of redness, swelling, or discharge. Please call us if any of these symptoms are evident. We also have various sizes of protective collars to keep your cat from licking at the surgical site. Licking can lead to inflammation or infection, which may require hospitalization. In general, your cat should improve gradually each day. If his condition suddenly worsens please call our office 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.