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Post-Operative Instructions for Sterilization Procedures

- * You must restrict the cat's activity for the next 10 days to allow the tissue time to heal, and avoid causing the incision to open. Cats should stay indoors. Keep the incision site dry; do not bathe or apply topical ointment during the recovery period.
- * Do not allow the cat to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar **MUST** be applied to prevent additional licking/chewing that could cause infection.
- * Keep males away from un-spayed females for 30 days - they may still be able to impregnate a female. Keep females away from un-neutered males for seven days to allow for healing. Be prepared to keep pets separate during the recovery period.
- * Check the incision site twice daily. There should be no drainage; redness and swelling should be minimal. Excessive bleeding, discharge, heat or pain should not occur.
- * Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Do not change the cat's diet at this time. Feeding the regular diet will help avoid gastro-intestinal upset.
- * Minimal redness and swelling of the surgery site should resolve within several days, but if they persist longer, please call our office.
- * You should also contact us immediately if you notice any of the following: pale gums; depression; unsteady gait; loss of appetite; decreased water intake; vomiting; excessive diarrhea; discharge or bleeding from the incision; difficulty urinating or defecating; labored breathing. If unable to reach us, **immediately** contact your nearest 24 hour emergency vet or your full service veterinary hospital.
- * Do not give human medication to the cat. Many human medications are dangerous and can be fatal.
- * If your cat was given vaccines, you will need to make arrangements for boosters with your veterinarian or attend one of our vaccine clinics (www.catsmeowsnap.org/vaccines to schedule) or another vaccine clinic in your area (check with PetSense, PetSmart or Tractor Supply).
- * If medical concerns were discovered during the procedure(s) that should be addressed by your veterinarian, they will be noted on the back of your "Service Request" under "EXAM/NOTES". For the comfort and well-being of your cat, please make arrangements to have these medical concerns addressed:
- * **FOR TONIGHT: If your cat is still unstable when you retire for the evening, it is appropriate to keep it in a medium to large carrier for the night (small carriers are appropriate for kittens). Place dry bedding in the carrier and a dish of canned food. DO NOT PLACE WATER IN A CARRIER WITH YOUR CAT OVERNIGHT. IF IT SPILLS, YOUR CAT COULD BECOME CHILLED AND THE ANESTHESIA COULD RE-ACTIVATE. The anesthesia should be out of your cat's system by morning.**