

# What To Expect During Your Last Litter Appointment



- Before your appointment, please let us know if you do not have a secure carrier, collar, or leash for each of your pets. We can provide you with these at no cost, and you can pick them up from our shelter before the day of your appointment. **Please do not arrive with any off-leash dogs, loose cats, or pets in any containers that are not designed for pets.**
- When you arrive at our shelter, you will be asked to sign our Release Agreement for any puppies or kittens being surrendered to our shelter.
- A Last Litter appointment typically lasts about 45 minutes, depending on the number of pets being surrendered to our shelter, and the health and temperament of each pet. Large groups of pets, or pets that are very shy or nervous may take a little longer.
- An appointment does not guarantee placement in our shelter – your pets must pass the intake evaluation to be accepted. Each pet will receive a wellness exam with our staff veterinarian, as well as a brief behavioral observation to confirm that our shelter is an appropriate fit for your pet's needs.
- Our veterinarian must determine that your adult cat or dog is healthy and ready for surgery, and they must be tame / safe for our veterinary staff to handle. Your puppies or kittens must be healthy, socialized, and old enough to be separated from their mom.
- If they pass the intake evaluation, your puppies / kittens will be accepted into our shelter, and would remain in our care immediately following this evaluation. You will be unable to visit with them again.
- Your adult cat or dog will be spayed, and you must return to the shelter to pick her back up at 3:00PM the same day, unless otherwise instructed. Any adult cat or dog that is not picked up as instructed will be reported as abandoned to the appropriate animal control agency.
- Be prepared to care for your adult cat or dog as they recover from surgery. Please thoroughly read our Post Surgery Instructions, included in this document (cats on page 2, dogs on page 3).
- The spay surgery for your adult cat or dog, along with any requested vaccines, cone, or pain medications will be free.
- Optional - If you have requested a microchip, the chip will be implanted and registered for you at the cost listed on the Surgery Consent Form. Payment for your pet's microchip will be due at the time of your appointment.
- We do not have a required pet surrender fee, but we always appreciate any donation you may be able to make to help us offset the cost of caring for your pet while we work to find them a new home. You can make a donation [on our website](#).
- If you would like to donate any of your pet's supplies, we can accept most items in new or gently used condition. Please see our list of accepted items [on our website](#).
- After the puppies or kittens have been adopted, we will send you an email to let you know that they have found a home!
- If you have additional questions about your appointment, please contact [intake@homewardpet.org](mailto:intake@homewardpet.org).

# POST-SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS: CATS



## Discharge Video

- Please watch [this video](#).

## Anesthesia

- Your cat may still be feeling the effects of anesthesia (wobbly, sleepy, disoriented). Allow cats to stay in their carrier if they wish (door open), or place them in a small room, giving close access to a litterbox, until alert and walking normally.
- Offer cats a small amount of food in the evening following surgery. Do not give more than ½ the normal amount. Kittens should be provided with small amounts of food and water as soon as they arrive home. Feeding can return to normal the day after surgery.

## Exercise Restriction

- Your cat needs time to rest and heal. Do not allow rough play, running, or jumping for the next 5 days. Anything you can do to reduce the activity level of your cat will help them heal.
- Keep cats indoors for 5 days. Homeward Pet recommends that all cats be kept indoors only. If you bathe your cat, do not give him/her a bath until 7 days after surgery.

## Incision Care

- Female cats have incisions with buried sutures, no suture removal is necessary. Male cats have no sutures. Look at the incision site when you get home, and daily for 7 days after surgery. A small amount of swelling and bruising is normal. Watch for signs of infection including increased redness, excess swelling (like a water balloon), opening of the incision, or any discharge. Any of these symptoms should be checked by a veterinarian as soon as possible.
- A small green tattoo has been applied to the abdomen of your cat. This is meant as an indicator of the sterilization status of your cat, thus preventing unnecessary surgery later in life. This will heal along with the incision.
- Prevent your cat from licking or chewing at the surgery site, using a cone if necessary.
- If you have any concerns, you may call Homeward Pet at (425) 488-4444 ext. 4010 and we will try and get you in to see our vet as soon as possible. You are responsible for contacting your own vet, and any charges incurred by them, when Homeward staff is not available.
- If your cat requires follow-up care by Homeward Pet Adoption Center due to post-operative incision problems, including licking at the incision, we may (at our discretion) charge a reasonable fee for additional care or medications.

## Pain Management

- All cats will receive an injection of pain medication after surgery that will provide pain relief for up to 24 hours. If you opted for additional pain medication, your cat will also receive an injection that provides pain relief over the next 3 days. This may cause mild alteration in behavior, sedation, or other effects associated with opioid medication.

# POST SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS: DOGS



## Discharge Video

- Please watch [this video](#).

## Anesthesia

- Your dog may still be feeling the effects of anesthesia (wobbly, sleepy, disoriented). Please keep your dog in a warm, quiet, room (away from stairs), until fully recovered.
- Offer dogs a small amount of food the evening following surgery. Do not give more than ½ the normal amount. Puppies should be provided with small amounts of food and water as soon as they arrive home. Feeding can return to normal the day after surgery.

## Exercise Restriction

- Your dog needs time to rest and heal. Do not allow rough play, running, or jumping for the next 5 days. Anything you can do to reduce the activity level of your dog will help them heal.
- Keep dogs indoors except for short leash walks and potty breaks in a fenced yard for 5 days. No swimming or bathing for 7 days after surgery. Keep the incision dry.

## Incision Care

- Your dog had buried sutures, no suture removal is necessary. Look at the incision site when you get home and daily for 7 days after surgery. A small amount of swelling and bruising is normal. Watch for signs of infection including increased redness, excess swelling (like a water balloon), opening of the incision, or any discharge. Any of these symptoms should be checked by a veterinarian as soon as possible.
- A small green tattoo has been applied to the abdomen of your dog. This is meant as an indicator of the sterilization status of your dog, thus preventing unnecessary surgery later in life. This will heal along with the incision.
- Prevent your dog from licking or chewing at the surgery site, using a cone if necessary.
- If you have any concerns, you may call Homeward Pet at (425) 488-4444 ext. 4010 and we will try and get you in to see our vet as soon as possible. You are responsible for contacting your own vet, and any charges incurred by them, when Homeward staff is not available.
- If your dog requires follow-up care by Homeward Pet Adoption Center due to post-operative incision problems, including licking at the incision, we may (at our discretion) charge a reasonable fee for additional care or medications.

## Pain Management

- All dogs will receive an injection of pain medication after surgery that will provide pain relief for up to 24 hours. If you opted for additional pain medication, please refer to the prescription label for instructions.  
\*\*Starting pain medication too early may result in adverse side effects.