

# Canine After-Surgery Care Instructions

## ***PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU PICK UP YOUR PET.***

It is important to understand your best friend has undergone advanced surgery involving general anesthesia. They will not be entirely “normal” until morning. Here are some guidelines to help them through their recovery.

1. When you first arrive home, find a **quiet area inside** for them to spend the night. Ideas include: an extra bedroom, bathroom, or other such place away from lots of stimulation. If left outdoors, dirt/sand may contaminate the incision.
2. **Offer them water.** It is normal for them to not accept water.
3. **Offer them food at half** what they would normally be offered. We understand they have missed breakfast, but they may be queasy from the procedure. Offering lots of food could make them vomit, stressing the surgical site.
4. **LEASH walk only.** Any running, jumping, or playing will stress the surgical incision and can cause bruising, bleeding, or even the site to break open. We strongly advise all activity to be **restricted for 10 days**, which is the time it takes the incision to completely heal.
5. **No bathing** during this 10 day healing period.
6. **DO NOT** allow female dogs to come in to contact with male dogs for 10 days post-surgery. Mating behavior will disrupt the surgery site and cause serious internal damage.
7. If your friend is **not eating, drinking, and fairly alert by morning**, this is **abnormal**. We strive to provide the best care at the lowest cost, but we are unable to provide emergency care. Please do not hesitate to call Operation SOS or the local emergency veterinary facilities listed below. They are gifted employees dedicated to helping you define an emergency. Advice is their specialty.
8. **Licking or pulling at the surgical site is abnormal**, along with swelling or discharge. This warrants a veterinary visit and outfitting your friend with a collar to prevent such activity. Your local Veterinarian or Emergency Hospital can efficiently and affordably assist you.
9. **Pain Control:** Your pet has been given an injectable medication called **Meloxicam**. This is similar to aspirin and lasts 24 hours. **DO NOT** give any other medications without consulting a Veterinarian. Doing can interact with the Meloxicam and cause serious harm.
10. If your pet received a **Microchip**, it is the size of a grain of rice, and has been inserted just under the skin between the shoulder blades. Be sure to keep your personal information current with the microchip company.
11. A green linear tattoo has been made next to the surgery site to indicate your pet is sterilized.

**Operation S.O.S.:** (772)222-7717 Open Variable days of the week and Locations.

**Dr. Dan's Animal Hospital:** (772)567-8468. 1624 14th Ave., Vero Beach, FL.

Open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-Noon

**Animal Medical Hospital:** (772)692-0611. 825 NW Dixie Hwy, Stuart, FL.

Open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-Noon.

**Pet Emergency & Critical Care Clinic:** (772)781-3302. 2239 S Kanner Hwy, Stuart, FL.

Open 5pm-8am Mon-Thurs, Fri 5pm-Mon 8am.

**Animal Emergency & Referral Center:** (772) 466-3441. 3984 S US1 Hwy, Fort Pierce, FL.

Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Animal Medical Center:** (772) 878-2222. 8267 S US Hwy 1, PSL, FL

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