



Calgary Pet Wellness and Spay/Neuter Clinic

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SURGERY HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS – RABBIT SPAY

SURGICAL PROCEDURE:

- Your rabbit had major surgery today. • She was unconscious during the operation.
- An incision was made in the abdominal wall and both the ovaries and uterus (ovariohysterectomy) were removed.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY:

- Your rabbit may be groggy, sleepy or unsteady from the anesthesia. However, she should still be responsive and able to move around, including being able to go to the bathroom and interact quietly with you. • Please try to keep your rabbit quiet. Refrain from exercise and play, and allow her to rest. • Your rabbit will typically require 24 hours to recover to a normal energy and attitude after anesthesia. She should be back to normal once the anesthetic has left her system entirely. • Your rabbit's stool may be a bit soft after surgery, but should quickly return to normal.
- ***If your rabbit seems excessively sleepy, having trouble moving around, or is not very responsive, please contact us, OR see the after-hours emergency contact information below.***

FEEDING:

- It is important that your rabbit eats within 12-24 hours of coming home. • You can tempt her by offering a small handful of greens. Always provide fresh grass hay (Timothy or Orchard). You can also try syringe feeding small amounts of vegetable or fruit-based baby food puree, or use a product called Critical Care (available at our office).
- Your rabbit's appetite should gradually return to normal within 24 hours. • ***Please contact us if you have any concerns about your rabbit's appetite, or see the after-hours emergency contact information below.***

MEDICATIONS:

- Please follow the prescription label(s). • Please do not alter the dosage or frequency of any prescribed medications without consulting a veterinarian. • If you feel your rabbit's medications need to be altered or refilled, please contact us.

ACTIVITY:

- The healing process usually takes 10-14 days. Activity and exercise will need to be restricted during this time. Consider confinement or a crate when unsupervised. • Please prevent our rabbit from running, jumping or rough play during the recovery period. • Do not bathe your rabbit during this time.

BEHAVIOUR:

- Hormone related behavior problems such as marking territory, not using the litterbox or aggression will usually improve after the rabbit has been spayed or neutered. It will take a few weeks for the hormones to settle down. Please note: male rabbits can still impregnate an intact female for approximately 4 weeks after surgery.

INCISION SITE:

- Check the incision site daily for 10-14 days. • Ensure the E-collar (cone) is on for 10-14 days.
- A small amount of swelling, redness or bruising can occur. • Do not clean or apply any topical ointments to the incision site. • ***If there are any concerns about the appearance of the incision, please email us photos to email@calgaryspayandneuter.ca***

SUTURES:

- Sutures are buried and are absorbable (unless you are told otherwise). • If skin sutures or staples are present, your pet will need to return in 10-14 days to have those removed. Please call to schedule an appointment for this. **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR CHEW THE INCISION. USE A CONE OR A MEDICAL PET SHIRT TO PREVENT SELF-TRAUMA**

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS: If any of the below signs are noted, please seek urgent veterinary attention:

- o Pale gums, excessive bleeding from the incision
- o Depression or unresponsiveness
- o Difficulty urinating
- o Labored breathing, lethargy lasting more than 48 hours
- o If your rabbit is in pain (hunched over, not wanting to eat, or hear a loud "tooth grinding" noise).

FOR AFTER HOURS INQUIRES OR AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT:

WESTERN VETERINARY SPECIALIST & EMERGENCY CENTRE
1802 10 Ave SW **403-770-1340**

PARAMOUNT 24 HR ANIMAL HOSPITAL
5111 Northland Dr NW #4110 **403-300-9111**