



## Calgary Pet Wellness and Spay/Neuter Clinic

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### **SURGERY HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS – RABBIT NEUTER**

#### **SURGICAL PROCEDURE:**

• Your rabbit had major surgery today. He was unconscious during the operation. The testicles were removed through an incision in each scrotum.

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY:**

• Your rabbit may be groggy, or unsteady from the anesthesia. However, he should still be responsive, including being able to go to the bathroom and interact quietly with you.  
• Please try to keep your rabbit quiet. Please allow him to rest. Your rabbit will typically require 24 hours to recover to a normal energy after anesthesia. 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 him 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 labels. 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. You may consider confinement or a crate when unsupervised. Your rabbit should not be allowed to run, jump or rough play during the recovery period. Please do not bathe your rabbit during the healing process.

#### **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 and keep the E-collar (cone) on for 10-14 days. A small amount of swelling, redness or bruising can occur. Please 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](mailto: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: Pale gums, Labored breathing, Excessive bleeding from the incision, Depression or unresponsiveness, Difficulty urinating, Lethargy lasting more than 48 hours. 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  
4625 Varsity Dr NW, #156  
**403-300-9111**