



Thank you for spaying/neutering your rabbit. You have just helped to decrease the potential number of homeless animals and made your rabbit healthier and happier! Although spays and neuters are common procedures, please remember that your pet has just gone through surgery and needs appropriate care to properly recover.

Note: The postoperative care line can be reached at (844) MY-ASPCA, (844) 692-7722. If you have any questions or concerns after your pet has had surgery, call this number and choose the option that allows you to speak to a Client Services Representative. **Prior to seeking any veterinary care for a rabbit with a postoperative complication, you must contact the postoperative care line, which is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.** Please be advised that if an animal's illness or injury is not related to the surgery, the ASPCA will not be responsible for costs associated with care. In addition, if postoperative instructions were not followed, the cost of the re-check appointment and care may not be covered by the ASPCA.

Anesthesia and Surgery

After taking your pet home, place them in a quiet, enclosed area away from other animals. Monitor your pet for any signs of abnormal recovery from anesthesia and/or surgery. These may include, bleeding, lethargy or weakness, loss of appetite/decreased water intake, shivering or unsteady gait that persist beyond 24 hours after surgery.

It takes 7-10 days for the surgery site to heal. During that time restrict your pet's activity by minimizing handling, and preventing your pet from running, jumping, climbing or any other activity that may keep the incision from healing.

Call the post-operative care line immediately if your pet experiences diarrhea, labored breathing or has pale gums or if your pet does not urinate or defecate.

Food and Water

It is very important for rabbits to eat following surgery in order to prevent complications with their digestive system. Offer your pet all of their regular food as soon as you get home. If your pet does not eat or drink within 12 hours of returning home, please call the postoperative line for assistance.

Pain Medication

Your pet was given long-acting pain medication in conjunction with the spay/neuter surgery. **DO NOT GIVE HUMAN MEDICATION TO YOUR PET.** It is dangerous and can be fatal.

Surgery Site

There are no stitches on the outside of the surgery site. All stitches are underneath the skin. These stitches dissolve, so there is no need to seek medical attention for suture removal. The two sides of the incision are also adhered with medical grade glue.

If your animal easily allows, check the surgery site daily to make sure that it is healing. If the surgery site is very red, has green/yellow or reddish discharge, has a bad odor, has something sticking out from it, is warm to the touch, or has bruising or a bump that seems to be growing, contact the postoperative care line.

Do not apply any products to the surgery site unless recommended by staff members of the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Housing

Keep your pet's cage and bedding extremely clean and dry for 7-10 days following surgery. You can use a cotton towel or paper towels on top of the regular bedding to keep dust and debris from sticking to the incision. Clean urine and feces out of the cage at least twice a day and more often if needed.