



## **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter**

1001 Rodriguez St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

580 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, CA 95076

Phone: (831) 454-7200 Fax: (831) 454-7210

Amber Rowland  
General Manager

### **New Pet Care Instructions**

#### **For the first 7 days post Spay or Neuter operation:**

Your new pet had \_\_\_\_\_ surgery on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

- Keep your new pet quiet while they recover from surgery and get used to their new surroundings.
- Feed them when you get home and start a regular feeding schedule.
- Your pet had surgery and anesthesia on the date noted, and may still be sleepy from the medications if the surgery was the day before.
- If you are getting your new pet on the day it had surgery, then know that anesthesia may wear off slowly, so your pet may appear drowsy this evening, but he or she will become progressively more active and alert with time. Cats may hallucinate as anesthesia wears off and sounds, light and touching may frighten them. Please separate your pet from other animals and young children tonight.
- Your pet may come with post operative pain medications; follow the directions.
- Skin sutures are buried and therefore do not need removal.
- There should be a green tattoo near the surgery site that indicates that a spay/neuter surgery was performed.
- Check the incision site daily for a week from the surgery date. Mild swelling is normal. Dogs may need an E-collar to keep them from licking or chewing at the incision site; pet stores carry them.

Dogs: No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity for 5-7 days. No baths during the recovery period. When dogs need to go outside, walk them on a leash.

Cats: Indoors only and no strenuous activity for 5-7 days (except kittens can just play like normal).

Notify us anytime at (831) 535-8624 if you see:

- Discharge or pus from the incision site.
- Incision opens up.

Notify your regular veterinarian or an emergency veterinarian if you see any of the following:

- Loss of appetite for more than two days.
- Weakness or pain.
- Vomiting after the first 24 hours following surgery.
- Any other urgent concerns.

Enjoy your new pet and make an appointment for them with your veterinarian for a Shelter pet exam!