



POST OPERATIVE CARE for BITCH SPAYS

Patient

Date

Your dog has received a general anaesthetic and is likely to be quiet and subdued for 24–48 hours.

- **Wound care** - Please ensure that your dog does not lick or chew her wound, as this could cause pain or delay healing. If licking persists, please use the Elizabethan collar provided. If unused, the collar can be returned and refunded at your dog's post-operative check.
- **Feeding** - Your dog may be fed a light meal this evening. A suitable diet is provided by the surgery or you can prepare a homemade meal of chicken or white fish with rice. Occasionally, after an anaesthetic, dogs may lose their appetite and / or be sick. If this continues for more than 24 hours or you are concerned, please contact the surgery.
- **Exercise** - Please ensure that your dog is kept on a lead when outdoors, until your vet has checked the wound. Try to keep her calm and avoid her jumping onto furniture or running up and down stairs.
- **Clipping** - A small area of fur will have been clipped from one or both forelegs where the anaesthetic was injected. The operation site will also have been clipped.
- **Coughing** - Your dog may have a dry cough for a few days after surgery. This could be because a tube was put down her throat allowing her to breathe during the anaesthetic. If the cough persists or causes distress, please contact the surgery for advice.
- **Pain Relief** - Your dog has received a painkilling injection that lasts for at least 24 hours. Further painkillers will be provided for the next few days until your dog is re-examined. If you are concerned that your dog appears uncomfortable in spite of her analgesia, please contact the surgery.
- **What to watch for** - Check the wound daily for signs of swelling, discharge or redness. If concerned, please contact the surgery.
- **IN AN EMERGENCY** - Once home, if worried, please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact your branch surgery during opening times. We have nurses on duty 24 hours a day at the main hospital premises – Tel: **01903 234866**

Your dog needs to be re-examined in days time. Please make sure you have an appointment. Suture removal is due in days

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS (see over the page)