



BURKE ROAD VETERINARY CLINIC AND HOSPITAL

Home Care After Desexing

Desexing surgery involves the removal of both ovaries and the uterus for females, or the removal of both testicles for males.

Following surgery, you should keep them in a quiet, warm and confined area to recover. If you have other pets it may be a good idea to keep them separate at least for the first night home.

It can take 24 – 48 hours to fully recover after an anaesthetic. By day two your pet should regain their usual bounce. Some pets may even be back to their normal self by the time you come to pick them up from the clinic.

You can offer a small meal; about half of what they would normally eat. Some pets are not always hungry after an anaesthetic, so don't be too worried if they are not interested, you can try again later or the next morning. Water should always be available to them.

It is a good idea not to take your pet for any walks for at least the first 5 days after surgery. During healing time it is best to keep your pet's activity levels down to help the wound to heal. If they become too active it can increase the chance of swelling in and around the wound and slow down the healing process. You can take them on short walks on the lead after 5 days.

You will need to watch the wound over the next week or so. The wound needs to be kept clean and dry, so no bathing or swimming until we have checked the wound. It is important that your pet does not lick or scratch at the wound to allow it to heal. An Elizabethan collar may be given for your pet to wear so they are unable to touch the wound while it is healing. Watch for excessive swelling, excessive redness, discharge, if any of the sutures are removed or if the sutures are constantly worrying them. If any of these occur you should phone the clinic and your pet may require to be checked.

Your pet will either have intradermal sutures (under the skin, dissolvable) or skin sutures. The wound will need to be checked in for 10-14 days and if there are skin sutures they can be removed at this time.

A pain relief injection is given to your pet during their recovery in the hospital and should make them feel more comfortable at home. If you believe your pet is uncomfortable at any stage after their surgery feel free to phone the clinic and a staff member will be happy to assist you.