



Foster Cell: 919-630-9680

Email: abroughton@spcawake.org

The Foster phone is always on and with a SPCA staff member.

You can also text, send pictures and videos to this number for any concerns!

Foster Program: Spay/Neuter Post-Operative Care Instructions

Your foster pet recently underwent a surgical operation (spay or neuter) so that he or she will not be able to have offspring. This is required by the SPCA of Wake County to be completed prior to adoption for all felines, canines and rabbits. Additional benefits of this procedure are that they will have fewer tendencies to wander off in search of mates, there will be no “heats”, less inclined to fight with others and the risk of future breast or testicular cancer is greatly reduced or removed.

The operation was performed under general anesthesia and required an incision into the abdomen or scrotum. This is considered a major surgical procedure and after-care is very important in reducing post-operative complications.

Immediate post-op care:

- Feed smaller meals for the first 24 hours after surgery.
 - You may offer food in very small amounts for the first 12 hours
 - Do not be concerned if your foster does not want to eat right away
 - Remove food until morning if vomiting occurs. Offer normal amounts of water.
 - If vomiting occurs or your foster isn't eating, please contact us immediately.
- Kittens and puppies should be offered food and water upon returning home.
 - Use heavy bowls for water to avoid spillage and the pet getting wet
- Do not give ANY medication other than the pain medication we send with you
 - Any other pain medications (aspirin, Advil or Tylenol) **can be deadly**.
- Keep your foster in a confined area for at least 24 hours.
 - Do not put them on high places (bed, sofa, etc). Rest & sleep are essential for healing.
 - Dogs are recommended to be confined to a crate when home alone and only permitted to walk on leash for the first few days.
- A small amount of blood near the incision can be normal immediately after surgery.
- You will not see any stitches, only surgical glue, which provides protection to the incision.
 - Females tend to have a reaction to the suture glue causing the incision to swell. Please take a picture if this happens and send it to the Foster Coordinator so staff can help monitor the area
- Male cats often have small amounts of blood from their incision for the first few days after surgery.
 - Do not wash or clean the incision.
- You must keep your foster from licking the incision or the surgical glue.
- Your foster had eye ointment put in their eyes for protection during surgery. This may make the eyes look glazed or weepy. The ointment will absorb naturally, so do not remove.



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For the next 1-2 weeks:

- Keep your foster in a clean environment that is quiet, warm, and dry.
- Restrict your foster's activity. No running, jumping or rough house play for 7 days.
 - We understand for kittens and puppies this may be difficult. Please do what you can to limit this by removing cat towers and keeping puppies on leash when outside.
- *Check your foster pet's incision daily.*
 - A small amount of redness and very mild swelling is normal.
 - Do not allow your foster to lick the incision site.
 - If your foster pet is persistent about trying to lick the incision site, an Elizabethan collar may be borrowed to prevent him from irritating the area.
- Do not wash or clean the incision. ***Do not bathe or get your foster wet.***

If your foster exhibits the following symptoms within 24 hours of surgery, contact the Foster Coordinator at 919-630-9680:

- Your foster is unable to stand or walk 12 hours after surgery.
- Your foster is not eating or drinking 24 hours after surgery.
- There is significant swelling or bleeding at the incision site.
 - A firm, small swelling under the skin is generally a normal inflammatory response to surgery and will get smaller over several weeks. When pets are too active after surgery, swellings occur.

Post-Op Medications: Your foster is going home with oral pain medication. This medication should be given with food. Giving pain medications on an empty stomach can cause GI upset. Please follow medication instructions closely and give as prescribed.

Dogs receive Carprofen and can be started the **morning** after.

Cats receive Meloxicam and can be started the **evening** after.