

# Wags 2 Whiskers

Veterinary Hospital

## Canine Neuter Home Care Instructions

A 'neuter' is often referred to as a 'routine surgery'. This phrase does not make it any less serious. Your dog is recovering from a *major* surgery, which requires continued support and nursing care at home to ensure a successful outcome. During the healing period (10 days), home care is just as important as the surgery just completed.

### **Activity**

We strongly advise strict confinement for the ten days following surgery. Strict confinement means: no running, jumping, stair climbing, rough-housing, etc. Keeping him indoors and away from the elements plays a key role in smooth recovery. If you need to leave him alone for any period of time, confining him to a crate, small room or area in your home is best.

*Excessive activity can lead to injury or serious complications that could result in failure of the surgical incision and necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to him.*

### **Incision**

We ask that you observe the incision area daily for signs of redness, swelling, and/or discharge. Some bruising is to be expected, as well as some inflammation just around the incision. If he is licking the area excessively, we can provide a protective collar to stop this behavior. Licking generally leads to chewing out sutures, which can occur in seconds. If he removes any of his sutures, or the incision is coming apart, please call us immediately. We also advise that you not bathe him for at least 10 days following surgery.

### **Diet**

Anesthesia can sometimes make patients nauseous. You may find, once returning home, that he doesn't want to eat or vomits. This is acceptable for the first 24 hours after surgery. If he refuses to eat beyond that time or continues to vomit, please call us immediately.

Another important thing to remember is that neutering your dog causes hormonal changes that reduce his energy requirements (lower his metabolism). A good rule of thumb is to either reduce the food by 30% or measure the amount fed and adjust as needed to maintain a healthy weight.

If you have *any* questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call us at (936) 582 - 2225.