



Ruff Start Rescue: Post-Surgical Care Instructions

Thank you for helping care for your foster after their spay/neuter surgery. Here's what you need to know to ensure a smooth recovery:

After Surgery Care

- **Limit Activity (10-14 Days):**
Your foster should avoid any strenuous activity for 10 to 14 days. This means no running, jumping, playing, or swimming. Keeping them quiet is crucial to prevent swelling around the incision site, such as seromas or scrotal hematomas, which could lead to premature suture dissolving, incision opening, and costly medical care.
- **For Male Pets:**
Male pets can still impregnate an unsterilized female for up to one month after surgery, so keep a close eye on them.

Incision Care

- **Suture Removal:**
No sutures will need to be removed unless you are specifically notified by our vetting team.
- **Keep the Incision Clean and Dry:**
Check the incision twice a day. There should be no redness, oozing, or swelling.
- **Prevent Licking:**
Use an e-collar (cone), t-shirt or onesie for females, or boxer shorts for males, to prevent licking of the incision for 10-14 days as it heals.
- **Tattoo Marking:**
A small green tattoo near the incision indicates that the animal has been spayed or neutered.

Food & Water

- **Gradual Reintroduction of Water:**
Begin reintroducing water slowly after surgery.
- **Loss of Appetite:**
Your foster may not be interested in eating or drinking on the day of surgery. This is normal.
- **Vomiting:**
If your foster vomits after eating, withhold food and contact vetting@ruffstartrescue.org
- **Not Eating the Next Day?**
If your foster still isn't eating or drinking the day after surgery, inform Vetting immediately.

Anesthesia Effects

- **Tiredness:**

It's common for your foster to be drowsy on the day of surgery. Let them rest in a quiet room, away from other pets.

- **Nausea:**

Mild nausea is typical within the first 24 hours after surgery.

Monitoring & Emergencies

- **Incision Issues:**

If the incision opens or appears infected, email Vetting and include a photo of the incision.

- **Emergency Contact:**

For emergencies, please email vetting@ruffstartrescue.org with **URGENT** in the subject line.