



## Post-Operative Instructions

**1. No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity for 7 to 10 days.**

Keep your pet quiet. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. No baths during the recovery period.

2. In most cases there will be NO external sutures. The internal sutures will dissolve on their own. There is a thin layer of blue colored skin glue over the top of the incision which will protect against bacteria entering the surgical site. **Check the incision when you get home** so you know what “normal” looks like, then check it twice a day. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your foster to lick or chew at the incision. All dogs **MUST** wear an E-collar for 7-10 days after surgery.

3. Your pet received an injection for pain; either Meloxicam, Sustained Release Buprenorphine or Carprofen, and will be sent home with more. **Give any medication according to the instructions on the label and as instructed by the kennel team.** Always give the medication with food and do not give unless your pet is eating and drinking normally. If in doubt, please contact the Foster Care Coordination or Kennel Manager. If during normal business hours, call the shelter at 856-2696. If outside of business hours, please refer to your foster manual for cell phone numbers.

4. **Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery.** Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea or vomiting are not normal. Should your foster experience any of these, contact the Foster Care Coordinator or the Kennel Manager. Do not change your foster dog’s diet at this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk or any other people food during the recovery period. This could mask post-surgical complications. We did offer your foster dog food; please ask the staff if they ate.

5. **Your foster received a green tattoo next to their incision.** The tattoo is a scoring process in the skin, it is not an extra incision. The tattoo is there to show other veterinarians that the dog has been altered.