

## **SOS of Ohio Post-Operative Instructions**

*If the animal is a feral cat, please disregard these instructions and go to [Feral Cat](#) portion of our website.*

No playing, running or rough housing allowed for 7-10 days. Keep animals in a clean dry place, and preferably indoors if possible. Keep animals separated from other animals in the household for 7-10 days to avoid any play that could affect the incision. You will need to leash walk dogs to go to the bathroom over the next 7-10 days. No long walks for this time period.

No baths or swimming for two weeks; the incision must stay dry.

When you get your animal home, please feed them a quarter of the amount you would regularly feed them. We ask you to do this so that they do not gorge and then vomit. If they keep this small meal down, you can feed them another small meal before bed. Starting the day after surgery, feed your cat and dog their regular food for 7-10 days – no table scraps and do not change their diet for this time period.

Check the incision when you get home and check it twice a day for the next 7-10 days. Make sure any redness and swelling is minimal and that it is getting better each day. Make sure there is no drainage or bleeding from the incision, this is not normal – call us right away. Our after hours emergency line is located on the yellow post-surgical instruction sheet you received when you picked you pet up from surgery. Please use this number **ONLY** if there is a surgical emergency. For general questions, please call our office line during regular business hours.

If the animal is having diarrhea, vomiting or is lethargic – call us right away.

Do not allow the animal to lick the incision. The first time you observe this behavior, you need to purchase an Elizabethan collar (e-collar). This is the only way to stop the licking. We have e-collars here at our clinic; pet stores carry them and some veterinary

offices. You must take the animal with you to get it fitted properly. If an e-collar is not worn, the licking will continue and your animal will infect the incision.

All female and some male animals are given a tattoo – this is a small green mark on their abdomen.

All stitches are internal and dissolvable; they do not need to be removed.

After your pet's surgery, if there are any questions, please call our day time phone number: 614-396-8707. If you have questions regarding your animal after surgery, and it is not during normal business hours, you can call the emergency after hours phone number located on the yellow post-operation instruction sheet. You must speak to our clinic to make arrangements for the animal to be brought here. If you go see your own vet or go to an emergency clinic without speaking to us first, we will not be able to reimburse you for any charges that are incurred.