

IMMEDIATELY call

515.460.SPAY if you notice:

- Diarrhea
- Any evidence of bleeding or severe pain
- Continuous licking or pulling at the sutures
- Discharge
- Vomiting after 24 hours
- Refusal to eat/drink after 48 hours

In the unlikely event that a complication would arise after surgery and you need assistance, you will need to come to our next mobile clinic or visit our veterinarian's private practice. In the unlikely event you are unwilling or unable to travel to us, you will need to utilize a local veterinarian at your own expense.



Animal Protection and Education Charity

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www.facebook.com/IowaAPE

**Caring for your
pet after surgery**

Questions? Call 515.460.SPAY.

Information provided by A.P.E.

Normal Behavior:

- Sleepy
- Appears to be in a “drunken” state
- Moving slowly



The Afternoon/ Night After Surgery:

- No food tonight. Anesthesia may cause nausea and/or vomiting. If your animal is under four months, you may offer a very small amount. However, do not be alarmed if they can not keep it down.
- Give small amounts water, only under supervision. DO NOT leave water out.
- Keep the animal quiet and warm (not hot), dry, and as clean as possible for the next 48 hours. It may be best to let the animal sleep alone overnight in a crate.
- **DO NOT** give your animal aspirin, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc. Over-the-counter pain relievers are dangerous and potentially fatal.
- Female animals will have tattoo ink on the incision. This will fade over the next week and will barely be visible once the fur re-grows. This is tattoo ink, so do not get it on any open cuts on yourself.

An e-collar (cone-of-shame) should be on at **ALL TIMES**, for ten days.

The Next Morning:

- Give only half the amount of food that you normally give. A regular amount of food may be given for the next meal, if the animal is feeling better.
- Monitor the animal while they are drinking for the next 12 hours.
- Females that were in heat or pregnant when spayed should be kept away from males for 7-10 days.
- A small amount of swelling and/or bruising around the incision area is normal.
- The animal should **not** be bathed, or do strenuous activities, such as jumping, or running off leash, until the surgical site has healed (7-10 days.)

Extra Care for Your Feral Cat:

- Follow regular instructions provided in this pamphlet.
- Cover the cage with a blanket to help keep the animal calm.
- If possible, shortly after surgery transfer females to large crates with litter pans.
- Males can be released the following afternoon if they are recovering well. Females can be released 2-3 days after surgery if they are recovering well.
- On the day of release, take the cat back to its colony. Wait a minute or two for the cat to orient itself before releasing it.

The stitches (male cats typically will not have stitches) are absorbable. They will “come out” on their own in three weeks to six months.

About the Microchip:

- A microchip was injected under the skin between the shoulder blades. Avoid petting the animal in this area for several days to allow the area to heal.
- The microchip will remain where it was injected and there will be no scarring or impairment from the chip.
- The microchip is a permanent ID with a one-of-a-kind number. The ID cannot be lost, altered, or unintentionally removed.
- The microchip will last the animal’s lifetime.
- Our computer system will automatically register this microchip for you.
- If the animal finds a new family, or your phone number, or address changes, please inform A.P.E. and the manufacture’s national database. This is important to ensure that if the animal gets lost, they will know how to get ahold of you!
- If you find yourself needing to update your contact information after the first year, you will need to pay an one time, lifetime enrollment fee, with the manufacture’s national database, **www.PetLink.net**. Use the promo-code **ADOPTAPET** to save on this enrollment fee.

