



## POST SURGICAL CARE - CATS

- **E-collars:**

- **Female cats:** Must wear their e-collar for 10-14 days. The majority of post-op infections and other complications are caused by licking. If your cat licks the incision, this can result in the need for a revision surgery, which can be costly.
- **Male cats:** Do not need to wear an e-collar.

- **Check the incision site daily for 10-14 days.** All sutures are internal and will dissolve over the next few months. No rechecks are required unless there are medical concerns.

- **Female cats:** The incision is on the abdomen. There should be no drainage, redness, or swelling.
- **Male cats:** The incision is directly on the scrotum. The skin layer is left open to allow for drainage. This helps reduce swelling and a build-up of blood in the scrotum. Small amounts of discharge/blood spotting is normal for 24-72 hours post-op. Some swelling is normal and should decrease over the next 10-14 days.

- **Exercise restriction for 10-14 days.** Your cat must stay inside for 14 days. Try to keep your cat as calm as possible during recovery. Do not play with your cat during recovery. If your cat is difficult to keep calm, consider keeping them in a smaller part of the house to encourage rest. Keeping lights low and playing calming music can also be helpful.

- **Your cat must stay clean and dry for 14 days.** No bathing, or going to a groomer in this time period. Do not apply any topical ointment to the incision site during the recovery period.

- **You can feed your cat when you get home.** Feed half of a normal amount at first as the medications given for surgery can cause GI upset. You can feed the remainder of their normal meal a few hours later. Feed your pet's normal diet during recovery. Sometimes animals will not want to eat the night of surgery. If they are vomiting and not eating by the next day, feed a bland diet of boiled chicken and cooked white rice for a few days. If there is no improvement in 24-48 hours, give us a call or email.

- **Keep intact pets of the opposite sex away from your post-surgical pet for 30 days.** Be prepared to keep pets separate during the recovery period.

- **Vaccines:** If your pet received a vaccine at our clinic other than rabies, please discuss a booster vaccine with your regular veterinarian or schedule with our Wellness Clinic at [ncal.com](http://ncal.com).



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- **If you have concerns:**

- **Non-urgent concerns:**

Email us at [clinics@ncal.com](mailto:clinics@ncal.com) or call 802-888-5065 ext 110. We are able to respond to messages on weekdays from 8-4:30pm. If we are not able to answer, please leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible, within one business day.

Non-urgent concerns include: loss of appetite or decreased water intake; vomiting; diarrhea; discharge or bleeding from the incision. Do not give human medication to the animal. It is dangerous and can be fatal.

- **Emergencies/urgent concerns:**

Please seek care at an emergency hospital. NCAL does not have a veterinarian on staff full time therefore we cannot provide emergency care.

Call LVVS, a hospital that offers emergency care from 8am-8pm, in Hyde Park at 802-888-7911; or

Call BEVS, the 24-hour emergency hospital, in South Burlington at 802-863-2387.

Any fees incurred at LVVS or BEVS would not be the responsibility of NCAL.

Emergent concerns include the following: pale gums; depression; unsteady gait or collapse; and labored breathing

- We will make every reasonable effort to treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-operative complications resulting directly from the surgery, *if* the above post-operative instructions are followed in full. Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please contact us for follow-up as soon as you see any cause for concern.