



Pre and Post-Surgical Instructions

We're glad you have decided to have your pet spayed or neutered at Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League! In addition to helping to reduce the number of unwanted pets born in our community, you are also helping your pet live a longer, happier life.

Did you know?

- Spayed/neutered animals live an average of two to three years longer than other pets.
- Spayed and neutered pets will never develop testicular, uterine, or ovarian cancers.
- Spaying and neutering pets reduces undesirable behaviors, such as urine spraying in cats and marking with urine in dogs.
- Pets tend to have fewer aggression-related behavior problems after being surgically sterilized.

Pre- Surgical Instructions:

- Do not feed the animal any food after midnight the night before surgery.
- Do not take water away from your pet; make sure he has access to clean, fresh water always.
- Our ultimate goal is providing the absolute best care for your pet and make them feel as comfortable as possible while they are away from home.
 - All pets receive a pre-surgical physical examination to determine that they are fit for surgery. If our surgeons feel your pet is not a candidate for surgery, they will cancel and inform you of your options at that time.
 - **In addition to an examination, we require pre-surgical blood work for all patients 7 years and older.**

If we observe any abnormalities on the day of surgery, you will be contacted immediately by 561-686-3663 (ext. 2006).

**** Palm Beach County Ordinance 98-22 requires cats to be spayed or neutered and micro-chipped by four months of age unless medically contraindicated.*

- The morning of surgery: please, arrive promptly at the clinic between 8 AM. We will not accept any appointments after 9 AM.
- Exercise your dog the morning of to encourage bowel movements prior to surgery.
- Our staff will review your information to include
 - Name, Address, & Pet's information.
 - Please take time to *initial and authorize where indicated* (failure to do so may result in cancellation of your pet's surgery).
- If you have a cat, bring it in a secure carrier and each pet must be in its own secure carrier. Please utilize pet approved carriers.
- If you have a dog, be sure it is on a secure leash or harness that it cannot slip out.
- If you drive a pick-up truck, please note that we are not allowed to release a pet that is not put inside the cab or into a secured crate in the back.
 - This is for your pet's safety and the safety of other drivers as your pet is very likely to be disoriented after surgery.

FAQ:

My cat can be shy and is difficult to get in a carrier before my appointment

- We advise you put you cat in a bathroom the night before, so he doesn't have a place to escape the morning of surgery.

I need to cancel my appointment

- Email clinicadmin@peggyadams.org to give us the courtesy to know you won't make it, and we will help you reschedule your appointment.

What is the surgery like?

- We use the best anesthesia agents available and are advancing our anesthetic protocols and techniques constantly. All patients will receive an anesthetic along with an analgesic (pain medication), and in some cases additional analgesics are also available.
- All surgical procedures are performed with sterile instruments and gloves and each patient receives their own individual sterile packs. Surgical vital sign monitoring is used routinely to ensure the utmost safety during all procedures.

Are there any surgeries you will not perform?

- We will not fix Dobermans

Post-surgical Care Instructions:

- Pet's activity should be limited for 10 days after surgery.
- No running, jumping, swimming, or significant activity, to include rough housing with other pets or people. Dogs must be leash walked.
 - Excessive activity can cause sutures to come out prematurely causing the surgical wound to open, become infected, or even cause swelling of the surgical site.
- Dogs will be sent home with an e-collar on. Keep the collar on for 7-10 days.
- Most incisions are closed with either absorbable stitches or tissue glue. It may take up to 8 weeks for sutures to absorb. In certain cases, the surgeon may choose to use non-absorbable stitches in which they will indicate the need to be removed in 10 days.
- **All** pets will have a shaved abdomen where a **GREEN Tattoo** has been placed. This indicates that the pet has been sterilized.
- Spaying and neutering are normally very safe surgeries; however, if you have an **emergency after hours call Veterinary Emergency Group at (561) 752-3232. This is an emergency phone line for after hours urgent care through our partner, Veterinary Emergency Group.**
- **Please call immediately if there is bleeding, bruising, lethargy, or an open incision.**
- If you have a concern during normal business hours, please call the main line 561-686-3663 ext. 2006, or email clinicadmin@peggyadams.org