

## **BEFORE & AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Preparing your pet for surgery**

The night before surgery, your pet may have food and water **up until midnight**. Please, NO FOOD OR WATER AFTER MIDNIGHT.

Please do not offer them any food or water on the day of surgery.

Arrive at our PAWS facility between 7:30-8:00 am on the day of surgery (285 John R. Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129). Park on the side of our building that has the flag pole.

We admit patients on a “first come, first served” basis. We rely on your honor to let us know in what order you arrived.

Please have your pets on a well-fit collar/harness and leash (dogs), in a secure carrier (dogs/cats), or in a pillow case (cats).

We make our best effort to check you in as quickly as possible. However, since we schedule up to 15 animals for surgery each day, you may not be checked in completely until 9 a.m.

Be ready to present your ID and your pet when you come into the building. The address on your ID must match the address on the application, or you must bring in proof of your current residence in the form of a utility bill, lease, or other bill.

Your pet will be scanned for a microchip and a photo of your pet will be taken. If your pet has a current rabies license, please be aware that the owner listed on the rabies certificate must be the person to sign the surgery consent form.

If someone other than the owner of the pet will be dropping off for surgery, then the owner will need to fill out and sign a surgery consent form and a permission form *prior to* the date of surgery.

You may pick your pet up between 4:00-5:30 pm the **same day** of surgery.

You will be sent home after-care instructions when you pick your pet up from surgery.

For further questions, please contact Rutherford County PAWS at 615-898-7740. Please leave your name, best contact number and what information you are inquiring.

### **THINGS TO WATCH FOR AT HOME**

The number one complication from the surgery your pet has undergone is **licking** and **chewing** at the incision site. Normally this does not occur due to the suture pattern we use in the closure, but occasionally the dog needs an Elizabethan collar to prevent the dog from reaching the surgical site.

If your dog begins licking or chewing at the incision site, please see your regular veterinarian to purchase an Elizabethan collar.

We recommend **“leash walking only”** for the next 5-7 days after surgery. This ensures that the pet will not break open the incision while running.

Your pet did receive pain medication after surgery that should last 8-12 hours. If you feel that your pet is still uncomfortable after surgery, please contact your veterinarian about pain management options for long term.

We ask that you please **look** underneath at your pet’s incision at least **ONCE a day** for the next 4-5 days after surgery. If signs of chewing (redness, heat, swelling, blood, or anything hanging from the incision site) or any seepage or swelling occur, we want you to contact your veterinarian immediately for follow up care. If you have problems after hours, please contact the emergency veterinary clinic below:

Animal Medical Center  
234 River Rock Blvd.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
(615) 867-7575  
Open 24 hours a day

Murfreesboro Pet Emergency Clinic  
2223 North West Broad Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
(615) 890-1259  
Open Monday to Thursday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.  
Friday 6 p.m. to Monday 7:00 a.m. (open 24 hours over the weekend).

Normally our patients leave in good spirits and wide awake. They may sleep a lot during the first night at home, and their abdomen may be sore for a day or two. By the second day you should not know they had anything done.

**By law, if your pet is less than 3 months of age, you must return to your veterinarian to have them vaccinated for rabies virus. They MUST be vaccinated by the time they are 6 months old.**