

Special Pals

3830 Greenhouse Road
Houston, TX 77084
281-579-7387 • www.SpecialPalsShelter.org

IMPORTANT SURGERY / VACCINE INFORMATION

Before Surgery Care Information

What to Do Before Surgery: For an adult animal, no food should be given after 11 p.m. the night before surgery or on the morning of surgery. **If your pet is within 3-6 months of age, only give one quarter of the normal amount of the food no later than 5:00 a.m. in the morning of the surgery.** Pick up food within 15 minutes of serving. Food may also be given the night before.

Housing: Please bring your pet indoors the night before surgery so he/she is safe from outdoor elements. This helps control his/her body temperature.

Flea Prevention: 15 days before the procedure/surgery, do not apply any over-the-counter products (powders, dips, flea collars, topical ointments) that you purchase from grocery or pet stores.

Heartworm Preventative: Regardless of the surgery date, heartworm prevention should be administered as normal.

New Mothers: Wait until the mother's puppies and kittens are between 8 and 10 weeks of age, eating dry food and drinking on their own prior before scheduling surgery. The mother may not want to nurse after surgery. Separate the litter and stop the litter from nursing 15 days before the mother's surgery.

Tip: Babies are between 12 – 14 days old when their eyes open.

After Surgery Care Information

Your companion animal **should ideally be kept in a small kennel the first night after surgery, then** must be kept indoors for 2-3 days after surgery. This will help **him/her to heal properly, and** you to monitor his/her recovery. **You** must prevent complications and possible death from outdoor elements and temperatures **and too much activity post surgery.** Quiet rooms and avoiding contact with other pets or children during the recovery process is recommended. **Please note: Blood dripping from the incision, white gum color or extreme lethargy are symptoms of internal bleeding and constitute a medical emergency. You should contact one of the Emergency Vet Clinics listed below if these occur. This is extremely rare, however, female dogs that were in heat or pregnant are at the highest risk for this complication.**

Your pet may have 1-2 ice cubes the first 3 hours after surgery, as stomach upset may occur after anesthesia is administered. You may gradually increase water and food during the next 24 hours. After surgery, expect your pet to behave more calmly. Your pet has undergone anesthesia and a surgical procedure so he/she will be sore and may not be immediately hungry.

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After Surgery Care Information (continued)

Restrict your pet's activity. Do not allow him/her to run or jump by leash walking, keeping kenneled, or confining to a small room. Your pet cannot resume normal activity for 14 days after surgery.

Monitor the incision area daily. **Redness and/or swelling of the incision is not normal and usually indicates licking or too much activity.** Do not allow your animal to lick/chew the incision area, **this will cause a post operative infection.** E-collars are **highly recommended** and may be used to prevent biting and/or licking. E-collars are available **through Special Pals and** at your local pet store.

During the first 7 days, do not allow your animal to get wet. This means no bathing or any use of over-the-counter chemical flea care products. You may use prescription **flea products purchased from Special Pals or your regular veterinarian.** Should the incision become dirty, gently clean the incision area with a cotton ball and lukewarm water. If the surgery required the use of sutures, the sutures are dissolvable and should not require removal. **NO ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL SHOULD BE GIVEN TO YOUR PET FOR PAIN RELIEF.** Tylenol is toxic and aspirin can be deadly for any animal that's been through recent surgery. Your pet was given pain medication at the time of surgery. Additional pain medication may be prescribed if warranted. The prescription of pain medication is solely the discretion of the veterinarian.

Please contact Special Pals if you have any questions or concerns! clinic@specialpalsshelter.org
281-579-PETS

Emergency Clinics: Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners 281-675-6000 19450 Katy Fwy Ste 600 Katy, TX 77094
VERGI 24/7 713-932-9589 8921 Katy Fwy Houston, TX 77024

Vaccine Reactions:

Soreness at the vaccination site and a small decrease in your pets' normal energy level is common and normal for the next 48 hours following vaccination. If, however, you observe any of the following, your pet may be having an allergic reaction to one of the vaccines:

Allergic reactions to vaccines are rare, but they do occur and are treatable. If you believe your pet is having one seek veterinary care right away.

- Swelling around the face or muzzle
- Itchy skin that may be bumpy (hives)
- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Severe coughing or difficulty breathing
- Collapse

