



## After Surgery Care for Dogs and Cats

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Please follow these instructions to help your animal recover after surgery. Keep pets calm, protect the incision, and contact us promptly if you have concerns. Follow any personalized instructions given at checkout.

### Food and general care

Offer  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the normal meal about 2 hours after arriving home. If there is no vomiting, offer the remaining portion an hour later.

Normal appetite should return within 24 hours. Mild constipation can occur after anesthesia and fasting.

Stitches are placed under the skin and dissolve on their own. They do not need to be removed unless we tell you otherwise.

If your animal received a microchip, register it with your information using the card and instructions given at checkout.

### Dogs and companion cats

No running, jumping, or strenuous activity for 7–10 days. Keep your pet calm and quiet. Separate from other animals for 3–5 days.

Check the incision twice daily. Watch for redness, swelling, discharge, bad smell, an open wound, missing stitches, or excessive bruising.

Keep the incision clean and dry for 10–14 days. No bathing, swimming, or water exposure. Do not apply peroxide, ointments, or creams unless a veterinarian directs you. A small amount of clear or slightly blood-tinged discharge in the first 24 hours can be normal.

Keep the e-collar on at all times, including sleep, for 10–14 days unless otherwise directed. Prevent licking, chewing, and scratching. Call immediately if stitches are removed or the incision opens.

Dogs: Use crate rest and short, controlled walks. Avoid dog parks, grooming, and daycare during recovery.

### Medications

Give prescribed medications exactly as directed. Do not give human pain medicine; it can be toxic to pets.

Contact us right away if vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite occurs after medication.

### Community cats in traps

Keep the trap fully covered at all times. Recover indoors in a climate-controlled space. Monitor hourly until bedtime.

Release the morning after surgery only if there are no abnormal signs, unless otherwise directed. Do not release a cat with abnormal recovery signs.

Abnormal signs include extreme lethargy, continued bleeding or discharge, vomiting, or dilated pupils. Continued wobbliness, rapid breathing, or shivering the morning after surgery are also abnormal. Seek veterinary care immediately.

Normal early recovery may include reduced activity, mild tiredness, slight wobbliness, light panting, minor ear-tip bleeding, or a small incision bump in female cats.



## Concerns and Contact Information

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### Contact us promptly

Call CATC if your animal is slow to recover or has complications. Postoperative complications typically occur within 24–48 hours. Contact us immediately for vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, or any opening at the incision.

CATC: (818) 330-3403

Monday–Saturday, 7:00 AM–4:30 PM

Closed Sundays and major holidays

For after-hours medical concerns regarding your pet's spay and neuter surgery: Call (747) 261-8703 and leave a detailed message with your name and phone number. Also email a detailed message with your phone number to [info@catchburbank.org](mailto:info@catchburbank.org). Email is only checked during regular business hours.

If your animal has a life-threatening emergency, contact an emergency veterinary hospital immediately. Do not wait for a return call from CATC. For other urgent concerns after hours that cannot wait, contact an emergency or urgent care hospital. Some nearby medical facilities are listed below for your reference. Call to confirm current hours and availability.

### Emergency and urgent care hospitals

#### **NOHO Urgent Care Animal Hospital**

5160 Vineland Ave, Units 111 & 112, North Hollywood, CA 91601

(818) 514-4551

#### **Burbank Animal Urgent Care**

126 E Alameda Ave, Burbank, CA 91502

(818) 296-0700

#### **VCA Animal Specialty Group**

4641 Colorado Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90039

(818) 244-7977

#### **Metropolitan Animal Specialty Hospital**

6565 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90038

(855) 350-7387

#### **Urgent Care Animal Hospital**

4945 N Eagle Rock Blvd, Suite A, Los Angeles, CA 90041

(323) 285-2279

Illnesses or injuries unrelated to surgery must be treated by your regular veterinarian.

CATC is not responsible for veterinary advice, services, or fees provided or charged outside our clinic. We are not affiliated with any other clinic.