

1st Post Op Check — at 2 days

Date

Time

2nd Post Op Check — at 7-10 days

To check that recovery is progressing as expected

Date

Time

1st Weight Check — after 3 Months

Recorded weightKG

Date

Recommendations.....
.....

Time

2nd Weight Check — after 6 Months

Recorded weightKG

Date

Recommendations.....
.....

Time

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Today has been neutered.

Treatments to be given

Additional Advice

The nurse that has discharged today is



THE
COACHHOUSE
VETERINARY SURGEONS

This leaflet covers:

- Post-op care
- Preventing interference with the wound
- The right nutrition for your neutered dog
- Aftercare timetable

Today your dog has been neutered.

The operation is not reversible, and a neutered dog will never be able to breed.

If your dog is female, she has been **spayed** (a full ovariectomy - the womb and ovaries have been removed). If your dog is male he has been **castrated** (both testicles have been removed). In both cases, your pet will have a shaved area on the midline of

the abdomen with stitches, which may be dissolvable and within the skin. Both will have a small area on the front leg where we gave the anaesthetic.

How long does it take for my dog to recover?

Usually, dogs are able to go home the same day, and recover well, although bitches are quieter than males as they have had a more complex operation. If you are worried about your pet, however, we are happy to keep them in overnight.

Feeding an easy to digest diet is important and you have been offered a special diet that is easy to eat, gentle on the stomach and high in nutrients to aid recovery. You should feed this for several days, and further supplies can be purchased at reception.

We advise restricting exercise to short walks on lead for 10 days until they are fully recovered, and you will need to make an appointment for spayed females to come back in 2 days for a check up, and in 10 days to check the stitches. At this time many dogs seem back to normal, but they will still be healing for a further 6 weeks, so don't let them over-exercise. There is no charge for the check up appointments and we strongly advise you attend, even if you think things are going well.

Keeping your dog comfortable after the operation

Your dog has been given pain relief, but please help us by looking for the following signs which may indicate that more treatment is needed:



- Withdrawn or quiet
- Trembling, or pacing
- Crying out
- Aggressive behaviour when handled, or guarding the painful area
- Biting or licking at the painful area
- Increased heart rate, panting, dilated pupils, increased temperature
- Not eating

Dogs in pain may show only one or two of these signs, or may just be a little quieter than usual. If you are unsure how to recognise these signs, or you think your dog is in pain, please telephone us for advice or come to the surgery.

Pain relief

We use Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), given as tablets or liquids, for example Metacam (meloxicam) to keep your dog comfortable. NSAIDs must be given WITH FOOD to avoid stomach upsets and stomach ulcers.

Always follow dosage instructions carefully and consult us if you feel drugs are not working, or you wish to reduce the dose.

Protection Collars

Why My Dog?

It is often said that licking can encourage healing -but this is absolutely not so- licking introduces infection into the area and does NOT encourage healing.

Unfortunately, we cannot explain this to a dog, nor prevent interference sufficiently by just watching and distracting our patients when they lick. A protection collar can allow your dog's wound to heal properly and more quickly without disruption from your dog. The collars we use are selected to be easy to use, hygienic and comfortable.



Dogs handle drugs differently to people, so NEVER use human drugs for them without veterinary instructions. In particular, ibuprofen is very toxic to dogs.



We may not offer you a collar for your dog if he/she seems relaxed and unlikely to lick or interfere with the operation site. Please ask for one, however, if you see any sign of licking or if your dog has done this before.

General Recommendations

1. Please follow our instructions regarding your dog's activity during the recovery period.

2. It is normal for dogs to react negatively to the collar at first, but they will usually learn to accept it within 24 hours. If your dog is still upset by the collar after this time please do contact the surgery for advice.

3. Your dog will be able to sleep, eat and drink with the collar on. Only remove the collar as instructed by the vet or nurse, as a dog can destroy two weeks of healing in a few minutes by chewing, licking or pulling at any stitches. If your dog can still lick the area with the collar on, a larger size may be necessary, do call for advice.

4. Keep the collar clean by washing with soap and water. Watch your dog's neck and ears for signs of irritation. We can be held in place with tape or bandage.

5. Observe the wound, surgical site, or dressings-please report to us any swelling, discharge or smell.

6. Whilst your dog is wearing the collar, be aware that the field of vision will be reduced so keep your dog on the lead.

7. It is particularly important for your dog to wear the collar when unsupervised and overnight. If you have any concerns about your dog's recovery at any time please contact the surgery and we will be happy to help.

Do I have to do anything differently after neutering?

Feed advanced nutrition to meet your dog's essential health needs.

Neutered dogs may look the same but they need tailored nutrition as some dogs might gain excess weight. We strongly recommend starting your dog on to a neutered diet right after neutering, advanced nutrition meeting the essential health needs of neutered dogs. It contains clinically proven health benefits such as appropriate levels of protein and fat to help maintain ideal weight.

It is estimated that more than one in four dogs in Europe are overweight-make sure your dog eats well and stays trim. Our fully qualified nurse will be able to help-consultations and regular weighing are free.

Weigh your dog regularly to ensure they are not gaining weight after neutering.

We recommend at least a weight check after 3 months and again after 6 months.

Don't forget to ensure your dog's microchip is regularly scanned and to keep up with annual vaccination and health examinations.

**Any Queries?
Don't hesitate to phone on
01635254544
24h**

