



Clinic and Administration:

3710 Woodland Dr., #1200, Anchorage, AK 99517

Adoption Center:

8301 Petersburg St., Anchorage, AK 99507

907-562-2999

CANINE NEUTER POST OP CARE

ALL MALES:

Thank you for trusting Alaska SPCA with the care/treatment of your dog. He is recovering from a surgical procedure that requires specific home care instructions. Please follow the instructions listed below:

- Feeding: His appetite should return to normal within 24 hours after surgery. If he is experiencing lethargy lasting for more than 24 hours, diarrhea, or vomiting, you should contact Alaska SPCA immediately.
- Activity: It is very important that you limit your dog's activity for the next 10-14 days. No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activities during this time.
- E-Collar: We **HIGHLY** recommend that he wears the e-collar for the next 10-14 days to prevent him from chewing or licking at the incision. If he licks at the wound this may cause it to open and possibly become infected. **If you do not use the e-collar as specified, the Alaska SPCA is not responsible for charges that may occur due to damage to the sutures or infections at the suture site.**
- Monitoring the incision site: You should monitor the site daily for 10-14 days to check for any signs of infection (white mucoid discharge), abnormal irritation, or any openings in the skin incision. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.
- Sutures: All sutures are buried under the skin and will dissolve on their own over time. You may notice a small bump at one end of the suture site - this is where a knot was tied to secure the suture. It, too, will dissolve over time but may take a little longer than the other suture to dissolve.
- Tattoo: Your dog will have a small (2mm) green tattoo placed on the left side of the scrotum. This provides easy visual proof of neuter should he ever get lost.
- Medications: Your dog will be going home with an oral NSAID medication which you can start tonight. If he has any vomiting/diarrhea after starting the medications, stop the medication immediately and contact Alaska SPCA.

If you have any questions/concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 907-562-2999. We handle a very high number of phone calls on a daily basis, so if you have difficulty getting through to us, please stop by the clinic to speak to us in person.

LARGE MALES:

Male dogs over 50 pounds are more prone to swelling and bruising of the scrotal sack and incision area after neuter surgery. All precautions are taken during surgery to minimize swelling and bruising, but these complications may still occur. Therefore, continued home care after surgery is needed to minimize this occurrence.

Too much activity after neuter surgery is the number one reason for swelling and bruising!

Restrict activity – no running, jumping, playing, hiking, etc. for 10 days. No walks for 7 days. Couch-potato level of activity is desired. If your dog is too active and you feel he would benefit from a sedative pill for a few days after surgery, we have medication available here to purchase for this purpose.

Do not allow your dog to lick or chew at the surgery site. An Elizabethan collar (E-collar) is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for all male dogs, especially larger dogs. This collar must be worn at all times for a full 10 days.

Carprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is prescribed to all of our neuter surgeries to take home. *DO NOT GIVE OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN MEDICATION TO YOUR PET!* Some medications, such as aspirin, can make swelling and bruising worse, and can also damage internal organs.

Keep your dog away from females in heat for 30 days after the neuter surgery. He may still try to mount females, causing trauma to the surgical area and he **WILL SWELL**. *Males can still be fertile for up to 30 days after neutering!*

Dogs over 60 pounds: it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** to start applying a cold pack to the incision site **before** swelling starts. Beginning the night your dog comes home from surgery, apply the cold pack for 15 minutes **TWICE** a day for 3 days. A bag of frozen peas works very well for this purpose (wrap bag in a paper towel first to prevent direct contact of the cold plastic to the skin).

If your pet starts showing signs of bruising or swelling: Apply a cold pack at the first sign of bruising or swelling. Apply pack 15 minutes, **TWICE** a day, for 3 days. Then switch to a warm compress for 15 minutes, **TWICE** a day, for 3 days. Most swelling or bruising will go away on its own with restricted activity, anti-inflammatory medication, and the use of an E-collar.

If swelling becomes severe, or gets worse despite home care, call us at 907-562-2999 or come by the clinic in person.