

Your pet has had major surgery and will need to be well cared for afterward to help prevent complications. Following the instructions below will help ensure your pet has a successful recovery.

1. Be aware that very few animals have emergency problems after surgery, but it is always better to be prepared than not. Our emergency clinic for after-hours complications is Veterinary Medical Center 941-739-1800 15205 Garnet Trail, Bradenton FL 34211
2. The recovery time is the next 7 – 10 days. NO running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activities during that time. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash.
3. Check the incision site twice daily. There should be no drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. An e-Collar must be worn for the next 7 – 10 days.
4. If you notice your cat licking at the incision, it is extremely important that you get an e-collar immediately as this can lead to serious and life-threatening complications. You can purchase an e-collar at our clinic for \$6.00.
5. If you have a concern with the incision, you can bring your pet to the Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic Monday – Friday from 9 am – 11am to have it checked. Please do not email pictures of the incision as it is difficult to determine if there is a problem.
6. Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy and lack of eating or drinking lasting for more than 24 hours, diarrhea, or vomiting are not normal, and you should call our veterinary clinic immediately at 941-747-8808 Option #1. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days following surgery.
7. Do not change your pet's diet during this time and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people's food during the recovery period.
8. Please note that your pet received a green tattoo during the sterilization process. This is not an extra incision. This is a universal indicator that your pet has been sterilized which will show any hospital that the animal has already been altered.
9. All dogs are sent home with post-surgery pain medication. Please start this medication in the morning after surgery. Please follow the directions on the medication label. This medication should NOT be given on an empty stomach.
10. Please call us (941-747-8808 Option #1) with any other questions or concerns you may have about your pet's surgical procedure or email us at clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org. Please include your pet's ID# in the email, which you can find on your receipt for the day.

The Humane Society of Manatee County will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-op instructions are followed in full. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions, or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.