

# Care of Your Pet After Spaying

Your pet has been spayed through an incision in her abdomen, the animal equivalent of an ovariectomy. This procedure involves internal surgery, therefore care and monitoring needs to take place for some time after the event. Our pets do not always understand that they must rest, so we need you to assist us with her recovery.

## Immediately Post Surgery

When you collect your pet from our hospital she may still be a little drowsy. This is quite normal following an anaesthetic and surgery. The drowsiness should reduce over the next 12–24 hours. There will be some bruising, so you can expect her to be a little more subdued for a few days. Keep your pet in a quiet, warm place, and give only small amounts to eat and drink. She will be back to normal in a couple of days.

## Taking Care in the Following Days

Most animals feel fully recovered within a few days. Unfortunately, this does have some disadvantages, as your pet may start jumping, running around, and—unintentionally—doing everything she can to upset the surgery site and/or the stitches. Please try to keep her as quiet as possible until the stitches are removed. Please keep the surgery site dry until after the sutures are removed.

## Problems to Note

Generally there are very few complications after this procedure, however, here are some signs to watch for that may indicate a problem:

1. Dull and listless behaviour (especially after the first 24 hours);
2. Redness or irritation around the line of stitches;
3. Swelling or lumpiness around wound.

If you notice any of these signs please do not hesitate to call the Bendigo Animal Hospital team on 5443 3322.

**Note:** Your pet will need her stitches taken out in 14 days, so please arrange an appointment for that time-frame. One of our qualified veterinary nurses will check that the wound has healed appropriately, and remove the stitches.