

Canine Neuter (Castration)

Mermaid SANDS | Post-Operative Discharge Instructions

Your dog underwent a neuter procedure today. Both testicles were surgically removed under general anesthesia. He recovered well from anesthesia. Please review these instructions carefully.

What to Expect Tonight

- **Normal signs:** grogginess, mild wobbliness, decreased appetite, mild incision swelling, occasional cough from the anesthesia tube.
- **These should steadily improve** over 24–48 hours.

Seek urgent care immediately if:

- Your dog is extremely weak, pale, collapsing, or difficult to arouse

Feeding

- **Tonight:** offer about half of your pet's normal meal, then the rest 1–2 hours later. This helps prevent overeating and vomiting after anesthesia.
- **Not eating tonight?** That can be normal — try again in the morning.
- **Tomorrow:** resume normal feeding.
- **Water:** keep fresh water available at all times.

Activity Restriction (10–14 Days)

Strict activity restriction is critical for healing. No running, jumping, rough play, or swimming — leash walks only for bathroom breaks. Overactivity is the most common cause of scrotal swelling and complications.

Surgical Closure & Incision

The incision is closed in multiple layers with absorbable suture material, including a final layer inside the skin. There are no sutures to remove unless you're told otherwise. Mild swelling and bruising of the scrotum are common.

A small amount of straw-colored to red-tinged discharge at the incision site can be normal, similar to a scab. If cleaning is needed, use a clean cloth with warm tap water. Do not use hydrogen peroxide — it can delay healing.

Seek evaluation by your regular veterinarian or the emergency clinic listed below if you notice:

- Rapidly enlarging or firm, painful scrotal swelling
- Active bleeding or thick discharge
- Incision opening or foul odor

E-Collar (Cone)

Your dog must wear an e-collar at all times for 10–14 days. Do not remove until the incision has been examined and cleared by a veterinarian. Licking can quickly cause swelling, infection, or incision breakdown.

Pain Management

Your dog received pain medication in the hospital. Give anti-inflammatory medication exactly as prescribed. Do not combine with other medications unless directed. Never give human pain medications.

If you elected enhanced pain control (opioid support): expected effects include increased sleepiness, mild wobbliness, dilated pupils, slower responsiveness, decreased appetite, and mild constipation. These should gradually improve.

Seek urgent care if you notice:

- Extreme sedation (unable to stand or respond)
- Agitation that does not settle, or severe disorientation
- Persistent vomiting or difficulty breathing

Giving Oral Medication

- **Hand pilling:** place the pill at the back of the tongue, close the mouth, and encourage swallowing.
- **Pill plunger:** use to safely deliver the pill toward the back of the tongue.
- **Pill paste:** coat the pill with a small amount of pill paste and offer it directly — confirm your pet fully swallows it.
- **Hiding in food (use if other methods aren't working):** mix the pill into a small amount of food, fed separately from the regular meal. This method carries a higher risk of a missed or partial dose if your pet doesn't finish the food — confirm your pet eats all of it before assuming the dose was given. Don't crush unless instructed.

If you're unsure whether a dose was swallowed, don't repeat it without veterinary guidance.

Elimination

Urination should occur within 24 hours. It's normal for pets not to have a bowel movement for 3–4 days after anesthesia. Seek evaluation by your regular veterinarian or the emergency clinic listed below if your pet hasn't urinated within 24 hours, or if it's been longer than 4 days without a bowel movement.

Follow-Up & When to Seek Care

We do not provide post-operative follow-up appointments. For routine questions or a recheck, contact your regular veterinarian.

For urgent or emergency concerns: Veterinary Medical Center of Indian River County — 1833 US-1, Vero Beach, FL 32960 — (772) 794-5800. If unavailable, proceed to your nearest emergency veterinary hospital.

Thank you for trusting us with your dog's surgical care. We are honored to provide accessible surgical services to our community.

Mermaid SANDS Team