

Feline Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)

Mermaid SANDS | Post-Operative Instructions — Owned Cat

Your cat underwent a spay procedure today. Both ovaries and the uterus were removed under general anesthesia. She recovered well from anesthesia. Please review these instructions carefully.

Important: Indoor Recovery Required

- Your cat must be kept strictly indoors for 10–14 days, even if she normally goes outside.
- Outdoor exposure increases risk of contamination, infection, trauma, and overexertion.

What to Expect (24–48 Hours)

- **Normal signs:** sleepiness, hiding, dilated pupils, decreased appetite, mild wobbliness.

Seek urgent care immediately if:

- Collapse, pale gums, or open-mouth breathing
- Severe lethargy or persistent vomiting

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)

No jumping, climbing, or rough play. Confine to a smaller room if needed. Internal healing takes 10–14 days even if the incision looks small.

Surgical Closure & Incision Monitoring

The incision is closed in three layers (abdominal wall, subcutaneous tissue, and a final layer inside the skin) with absorbable suture material. There are no sutures to remove unless you're told otherwise. Check the incision once daily — mild redness and swelling are normal.

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.

If your pet was in heat at the time of surgery, a small amount of residual bloody discharge from the vulva can be normal.

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

- Active bleeding or thick discharge
- Increasing redness or significant swelling
- Incision opening or foul odor

E-Collar

An e-collar must be worn at all times for 10–14 days. Do not remove until cleared by a veterinarian.

Pain Management

All owned cats are sent home with oral pain medication unless declined. Give exactly as prescribed. Do not crush or dissolve unless instructed. Never give human medications.

Enhanced pain control — Zorbium®: if elected, transdermal buprenorphine was applied between the shoulder blades, providing pain control for about 3–4 days. Expected effects: dilated pupils, increased purring or vocalization, restlessness, decreased appetite, mild disorientation. Avoid touching the application site for 24 hours.

Seek urgent care if you notice:

- Severe sedation or extreme agitation
- Persistent open-mouth breathing
- Repeated vomiting

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 cat's care.

Mermaid SANDS Team