



Animal Shelter Inc Clinic
17 Laurelwood Road
Sterling, Massachusetts 01564
Tel: 978-422-8449 Email: clinic@sterlingshelter.org

Discharge Instructions

for Rabbits and Small Animals

Activity - Keep your pet confined to a crate or cage for the next 10-14 days. All pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. Do not bathe your pet. Keep your pet's bedding clean while they are healing.

Incision - Visually check the incision site daily. Redness and swelling should be minimal. If your pet had a scrotal castration, they may have small amounts of discharge/drainage for up to three days.

E-Collar - E-collars are not provided for rabbits or pocket pets, as they may have difficulty eating with them on. If your pet is licking or chewing at the incision site, please contact Animal Shelter Inc.

Sutures - Your pet does not have external sutures. All sutures are absorbable on the inside and the very outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue. Do not clean or apply topical ointment to the incision site.

Feeding - Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery. Offer your pet their normal diet the night after surgery. If you rabbit or guinea pig does not want to eat, try enticing them with some leafy greens, **Do not change your pet's diet at this time.** Please contact Animal Shelter Inc. if your pet is not eating the day after surgery, as this can be a serious concern in rabbits and guinea pigs.

Tattoo - Your female rabbit has received a small green tattoo next to their incision to indicate they have been surgically sterilized. This tattoo is a scoring of the skin, not an extra incision.

Medications - Your pet received injectable pain medication post operatively. Rabbits, guinea pigs, and female rats go home with 3 days of oral pain medication. Rats, mice, and male guinea pigs also go home with 5 days of oral antibiotics. Please start administering medications the morning after surgery and give with food.

Follow Up - We recommend that your pet receive a post operative examination with **your regular veterinarian in 10-14 days** to ensure complete healing of incision and to discuss any additional medical needs.

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery, please call the clinic at 978-422-8449, Monday - Thursday from 7:30 am – 5:00 pm. If there is an emergency after hours, contact your regular veterinarian or emergency animal hospital nearest you.

Animal Shelter Inc. will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery, if the above post-operative instructions are followed in full. **Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery.** 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 disease for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.