

**TRURO VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

165 Arthur Street  
Truro, N.S. B2N 1Y3  
(902) 893-2341

**Home Care Instructions**  
**For Dog Spay Surgery**

- Incision** 1. Check the incision every day. It should look better each day. If it looks red, swollen or irritated, please let us know. She may need to wear a **special collar** to keep her from bothering with it.  
2. We need to schedule an appointment to have the incision re-checked in two weeks time. If there are stitches, we will remove them at that time. This appointment is no charge.
- Exercise** 1. Leash walking only until after the re-check appointment.  
2. Keep her from rough housing with other pets or family members, tearing up and down stairs and jumping for the next two weeks. This means no Doggy Daycare, Puppy Parties, Agility, Flyball or any other activity which involves running, jumping and rough housing. She will need to be crated or confined if she insists on being too active. If she pulls the incision open, she will need to be put under another anesthetic to repair it **at your cost**, and she will need to follow these instruction for another two weeks.
- Food & Water** She has been offered food and water in hospital last night and this morning. She can eat her normal food in normal amounts. Hold off on the treats and specialties for a couple of days to let her stomach get used to food again.
- Bodily Functions** Your dog should not have any problems with urinating or defecating (peeing and pooping). Her BM may be a little soft today, but if it persists she should be seen. Any vomiting would indicate that she should be seen.
- Bathing** 1. No baths or swimming until after the re-check appointment.  
2. If she is going to be walking in long, wet grass, or through puddles, smear some petroleum gel (Vaseline) over the incision to keep it from getting wet.
- Pain Management** Meloxicam is sent home with all surgeries to manage post-op pain. It is a beef flavoured oral medication. Meloxicam is to be given once daily. The nurse discharging your dog will tell you when the next treatment is needed and how much she will need. You should only need this for 1-4 days. If your dog seems painful, vomits or refuses food, please call us.
- Raspy- breathing** Your pet may experience some irritation of the airway (trachea) following anesthesia. This can lead to to raspy sounding breathing. It should resolve within a few days. If there is any coughing or discharge then you should contact the clinic immediately.

If you notice any of the following, be sure to call us at 893-2341:

1. red, irritated skin near the incision
2. any lumps near the incision line
3. any vomiting
4. diarrhea which persists past the first day home
5. not eating or drinking
6. extreme tiredness
7. if you have any questions or concerns