



(510) 639-7387

Oakland SPCA Spay & Neuter
Surgery Center
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Surgery Center
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Rabbit Spay and Neuter Post-Operative Care Instructions

When you return home:

- Rabbits may be offered food as soon as they show interest, often shortly after surgery. Food and a water bottle with fresh water should be available to them at all times.
- Keep the rabbit in a confined area away from other pets and children for a day. Do not place them in a high place (bed, sofa, etc). Rest and sleep are essential for healing.
- A small amount of blood around the incision is normal immediately after surgery. You will not see any stitches, only surgical glue, which is blue and provides protection for the incision.
- Your pet has had eye ointment put in its eyes for protection during surgery. This may make the eyes look glazed or weepy. The ointment will absorb naturally, so do not remove.

For the next week:

- Keep your rabbit on clean newspaper or Carefresh® bedding for at least a week after surgery.
- **Check your rabbit's incision daily.** A small amount of redness and swelling is normal. You must keep your rabbit from chewing the incision or the surgical glue. However some pets cannot be restrained from licking so we recommend an E-collar. This fits around the neck and prevents licking. You may purchase an E-collar from us before or after your pet's surgery.
- Make sure your rabbit's eating returns to normal over the next 2-3 days. Some rabbits may have soft or clumped stools for a day or two. Offering good-quality hay will usually help get your rabbit eating and defecating.
- If your rabbit is using an E-collar, prepare for them to react negatively at first. It will be awkward and uncomfortable for them, and hinder their movement at first. It usually takes them 24 hours to get used to the collar and then they are quite accepting of it. **Do not remove the E-collar if your pet is likely to lick its incision.**
- If there is damage done to the incision by the rabbit by chewing, we can usually repair it, however this is at the owner's expense.
- Do not pick female rabbits up for at least 4 days after surgery. Trying to pick a female up too soon after surgery may result in her biting or scratching out of pain.
- Do not wash or clean the incision. **Do not bathe or get your rabbit wet for 7 days.**
- Keep males and females separated for at least 2 weeks. They may try to breed for several weeks after surgery.

Please call us if:

- Your rabbit is not able to eat or drink 24 hours after surgery
- There is excessive swelling or bleeding at the incision after 24 hours
- The rabbit is unwilling to move or extremely lethargic.
- You feel your pet needs a post-surgical check-up; a check-up can be arranged.



Don't hesitate to call the clinic if you have any questions

or concerns about your pet's condition!