

Post Operative Instructions for Foster Dogs and Puppies

The following is information regarding post-operative care for your foster animal. If you have any questions or concerns about the surgical procedure or recovery, please email the Foster Veterinary Technician, at sanderson@hswestmi.org.

Most dogs will self limit their activity following this abdominal surgery. Some may also be slightly groggy due to the anesthetic/pain medication given for the rest of the day.

You are being sent home with oral pain medication to start the day after surgery.

Monitor appetite - some dogs will have little or no appetite following surgery. Some may vomit as well. If either of these symptoms persist past 24 hours, please let us know.

Keep the incision dry - no bathing or swimming should be done for 10 days.

Monitor the incision - for any pain, heat, redness, drainage or excessive swelling for 7-10 days. If any of these symptoms are observed, please email the Foster Veterinary Technician a picture of the incision.

Discourage licking at the incision - If your foster is licking or chewing at the incision, they must be fitted with an E-collar (aka "cone"). This should remain in place at all times when they are not being directly supervised until the incision is completely healed. We can provide a collar, or you can get one at a pet store. For smaller animals, a paper plate can be crafted into a cone (please see next page for instructions).

Try to discourage running, jumping or strenuous activity - for 5-7 days post surgery for females, and 3-5 days post surgery for males. Increased activity may cause post-op complications and delayed healing. Keeping your foster pet confined to an area that limits strenuous activity post-op is highly recommended.

Do not give your dog Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, or any other over the counter pain medication - these substances are very toxic to dogs and can be fatal, especially when combined with the pain medication sent home with you. If your foster pet is in excessive pain, please let us know and we can prescribe additional pain relievers.