



## **PLEASE READ BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT**

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### **Potential Complications of Spay/Neuter Surgery**

#### Common

- **Self-inflicted trauma to the surgical site. This includes suture removal by the animal, skin infections caused by licking and other damage. You can help prevent these problems by purchasing an e-collar. Self inflicted trauma to the surgical site can necessitate a costly repair surgery, infection and in some cases, death.**
- Scrotal bruising and swelling in males that resolves without treatment
- Hematoma or seroma (non-painful swellings near the incision or in the scrotum) that resolve without treatment

#### Rare

- Anesthetic complications resulting in death (1/2500 animals\*)
- Other anesthetic complications resolving with treatment (1/5000)
- Hernias in females-breakdown of the internal sutures (1/8000)
- Delayed wound healing (0)
- Urinary incontinence-dribbling urine/inability to control urination (0)
- Infections in the abdomen or the remaining small piece of the uterus (1/8000)
- Weight gain in females (0)
- Bleeding during or after surgery either internally, from the incision or from the vulva that can result in death. (1/1000 repaired surgically)
- Infection in the skin near the incision or sutures (1/8000)
- Adhesions or other complications which may impair gastrointestinal or urinary tract (0)
- Other: There is also the possibility of unforeseen complications

Figures recorded by Dr. Cobb based on 8000 surgeries.

### **Vaccination Reactions**

Recommended vaccines help protect your pet from deadly or potentially deadly and fairly common diseases. Muscle soreness, sluggishness, loss of appetite +/- mild fever are occasionally seen for a day or two after vaccination. On rare occasions, pets have an allergic reaction. Hives and/or facial swelling are the most common signs. Pets with these reactions should be treated promptly as the condition can, on very rare occasions progress. On extremely rare occasions, pets have allergic shock reactions to shots. This may be seen as difficulty breathing, weakness, collapse or even death. These reactions generally occur within 5 minutes of vaccination but can take longer. These reactions can occur in pets that have been vaccinated in the past without problems. Pets can develop sarcomas (tumors) at the injection site (reportedly 1/10,000 shots). These tumors are most frequently reported with rabies vaccines and feline leukemia vaccines (reportedly 1/1000 shots). They are very difficult and expensive to treat and can result in the need for euthanasia. There are also reports of dogs developing immune mediated anemia from vaccinations. This appears to be rare but can be deadly.