

CANINE POST SURGICAL RELEASE FORM

Avid #: _____ **Adoptee:** _____
DATE: _____ **ANIMAL ID #:** _____ **STAFF INIT:** _____

Your new pet has just been spayed (females) or neutered (males). Although routine, these are major surgeries performed under general anesthesia using sterile operating technique. Following the guidelines below will ensure that your pet will recover smoothly as they adjust to their new environment.

INITIAL

ACTIVITY: Restrict your pet's activity for 14 days after surgery. Leash walk only. No running or jumping. Keep your pet quiet, indoors, clean, warm, and dry. **DO NOT BATHE** for 10-14 days.

FOOD AND WATER: Initially, feed small amounts of food and water frequently to avoid gorging. Your dog may have a decreased appetite or seem sleepy and less active as a lingering effect of anesthesia, but normal appetite and activity should return within 24-48 hours.

SUTURES: Unless you are told otherwise, all sutures are absorbable under the skin and do not need to be removed. Do not clean or apply ointment to incision site. If you are told that your pet has skin sutures or staples, return in 10-14 days to have them removed. **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PET TO LICK OR CHEW AT THE INCISION.** If your pet is licking at the incision site, purchase an Elizabethan collar from your local pet store or veterinarian to be worn until the site is completely healed. Tranquilizers may be needed in some cases. See your veterinarian for a prescription.

TATTOO: Female dogs spayed at OC Animal Care clinic are tattooed at the incision site. Please inform your veterinarian. This will appear as a black mark that will eventually turn into a green line that allows us and other clinics to know that the animal has already been sterilized.

VET EXAM: You are entitled to a free exam by a Southern California Veterinary Medical Associated (SCVMA) veterinarian. Have your family veterinarian recheck the incision and put your new pet on a vaccination and parasite control program.

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS: Check the incision site daily. What you see today is what we consider normal. Minimal redness and swelling is normal and should resolve within several days. Please contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 if you notice any of the following within the first 7 days of adoption: depression, vomiting, diarrhea, discharge, bleeding, excessive swelling, or opening at the incision site, pale gums, difficulty urinating, labored breathing, coughing, ocular or nasal discharge.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact OCACS at (714) 935-6848, Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. If you have questions after hours, contact your local emergency clinic. **Any and all financial expenses incurred after adoption are the sole responsibility of the new pet owner.**

Signature _____

Date _____