POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- **No running, jumping, playing** (with other pets or people) or strenuous activity for 7-10 days. Pets must stay indoors and be kept quiet. Dogs must be walked on a leash (even if your yard is fenced) and keep cats inside for the entire recovery period. **Pets will be very disoriented tonight** and can injure themselves. Please keep them crated/kenneled or in a small room with no furniture.

- **Keep your pet dry** for 7-10 days. The skin layer of the incision is closed with surgical glue and must be kept dry. The glue will dissolve with any moisture, introducing bacteria that may cause an infection. This means NO BATHS, swimming, rolling in wet grass or application of any ointment. A small hard lump may form at the incision site- this is a common suture reaction that will go away within about two weeks as the body breaks down the suture material.

- **DO NOT** let your pet lick the incision area. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND AN E COLLAR** (cone animals wear post surgery) to prevent your pet from irritating or opening the incision area. You can purchase an e collar from our front office for $10. ***We will not be held liable for post surgery complications if your pet does not wear an e-collar*** *AT ALL TIMES after surgery. E-Collars should be worn until the incision is fully healed.*

- Your pet does not need to return for suture removal, the clinic uses sutures that dissolve over time.

- **Your pet did receive a small green tattoo to identify that it has been spayed/neutered.**

- **Do not feed your pets until 6pm tonight**, and only offer a small amount. Anesthesia can sometimes cause nausea. If your pet has any vomiting or dry heaving, wait until tomorrow morning to offer food. Do not change your pet's diet at this time and do not give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other *people food* during the recovery period. This could mask or cause post-surgical complications.

- Your pet received pain medication at the time of surgery. If your dog received take home pain medication, it should be started the morning after surgery and given every 24 hours. **Do not give your pet human pain medication** such as Aspirin, Tylenol, or Ibuprofen.

- If there are any questions, concerns, or emergencies directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please **email info@humanesocietyofvaldosta.org or message us on FB/Instagram: Humane Society of Valdosta Lowndes.** Send us pictures of the incision, your contact information, and the date of surgery.

- The Humane Society of Valdosta will treat at our clinic, at minimal cost, any post-op complications resulting directly from the surgery, **if the above post-op instructions are followed in full.** Your regular veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of surgery. Please call for an appointment as soon as you see cause for concern. **We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously properly vaccinated.**