Surgery After-Care Instructions
(Read Carefully)

Your companion animal will act drowsy and unstable for several hours after surgery. The total effects of the anesthesia won’t be gone until tomorrow. It is not unusual for an animal to shake and act uncoordinated when waking up. This is normal and is caused by the anesthetics used for surgery. Please remember older animals and overstressed companion animals may take longer to recover.

The surgical area may be slightly swollen and red for a day or so. A lump will form as the suture material begins to break down and scar tissue forms. This is normal if there is no redness or drainage, and the incision is not hot to the touch. Please call if you notice any of these problems with the animal’s incision.

The first few days after surgery follow these guidelines:

1. Keep your companion animal quiet tonight and in a warm comfortable place. Anesthetics stop the ability to control a companion animal’s body temperature. Do not leave your companion animal outside in the cold and keep your companion animal cool in hot weather, until the anesthetics wear off.

2. Keep your companion animal away from children and other animals. When coming out of anesthetics a companion animal can be confused or aggressive and may not realize who is trying to handle it. Do not leave your companion animal where it might fall until the sedation wears off.

3. Because your companion animal received a general anesthetic today, give only a small amount of water tonight and small amount of food. Feeding or watering your companion animal excessively may cause vomiting and/or diarrhea.

4. Please do not allow your companion animal to lick or chew at the incision!!! This can cause infection and may loosen or pull out sutures. If the animal persists on licking the incision, you may need to purchase a special collar sold in animal supply stores and at your local veterinarian known as an E-Collar.

5. Your companion animal will not need to have any sutures removed as they are buried under the skin.

6. Do not allow your companion animal to get wet for 7 to 10 days after surgery.

7. Do not give any type of pain medication, such as Tylenol, aspirin or ibuprofen without your regular veterinarian’s permission to do so. (Without proper administration and dosing, over-the-counter pain medications have been known to cause serious injury and even death to dogs and cats.)

8. Should you have any questions or concerns about your companion animal, a Georgia Animal Project volunteer can be reached at 770-710-9606 until 9:00 pm the night of the surgical procedure and from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm the two days following the surgery. After that, call the Georgia Animal Project at 770-704-PAWS and leave a message. Someone will return your call. These contact numbers are for questions and/or referrals only. After care is the responsibility of the companion animal owner.

9. In case of medical emergency, call the Cherokee Emergency Veterinary Clinic at 770-924-3720 located at 7800 Highway 92, Woodstock, GA 30189. This facility will charge a fee to see your animal. Once your animal leaves the clinic site you are fully responsible for after care and all veterinary expenses.

10. Special Instructions:

Owner Signature _____________________________ Date _____________________________

Georgia Animal Project Copy
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**Thank you for being a responsible companion-animal owner!**

**THE NUMBERS ARE STAGGERING!** Studies show that one female dog and her descendants can produce as many as 67,000 dogs in six years. In seven years, a single unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce up to 420,000 kittens. Sadly, the majority of these animals meet an untimely death. Unwanted and abandoned, many do not survive the harsh conditions of life on the streets. The millions of animals who end up in shelters only stand a 50% chance of being adopted. The rest are euthanized. Tragically, most of these poor creatures would have made wonderful companions – but they ran out of time. **In our eyes you are a hero!**