Care of your rabbit after surgery:

1. Keep your rabbit in its carrier until the effects of anesthesia have worn off and he or she can stand alone. Please do not try to handle the rabbit during this time.

2. Keep your rabbit in a warm, quiet environment, away from other animals, small children, stairs and loud noises where they may be stressed or panic. They may want to be left alone, and cuddling should not be forced. Remember that rabbits are naturally prey species. If you want to keep your rabbit warm, try warm water bottles or warm towels. AVOID heating pads or other electrical heating devices that the rabbit may chew and cause electrocution.

3. Rabbits must stay indoors after surgery. Males should stay indoors for at least 4-5 days following surgery. Females should stay indoors for at least 10 days to allow the incision to heal properly. Limit their physical activity during this healing time.

4. Rabbits do make noise including grunting, growling, tooth grinding and gentle tooth purring. They also express how they feel by using body language, such as binkies, thumping, foot flicking and head or ear shaking. It is important to know what is normal for your rabbit, and observe them for any unusual behavior.

3. When your rabbit arrives at home, be sure to offer it water from a bowl, hay and fresh greens or pellets. If your rabbit is reluctant or slow to eat, offering fresh greens is recommended, such as parsley, basil, dill, mint or romaine lettuce. AVOID starch-filled treats. AVOID kale, dandelion and carrot tops, as they are high in oxalate concentration and may produce urine sludge or crystals. Any change in diet can cause digestive tract upset and lead to complications. Male rabbits are more likely to eat soon after surgery. Female rabbits frequently do not want to eat soon after surgery, and just be left alone. Your rabbit should be eating within 24 hours after surgery. If not, consult a veterinarian immediately.

4. All rabbits normally pass a special type of fecal pellet called cecotropes, sometimes called “night droppings”. Many owners never see these cecotropes because they are frequently passed when no one is watching. Rabbits eat their cecotropes. These cecotropes contain digestive enzymes and nutrients, and are an essential part of maintaining your rabbit’s digestive health. If rabbits cannot eat their cecotropes, they can suffer from malnutrition and intestinal stasis. **If your rabbit is wearing a lampshade collar after surgery, the lampshade collar will prevent them from eating their cecotropes. It is very important that you give your rabbit time each day without the lampshade collar on, to eat their cecotropes. Another option is to hand-feed your rabbit their cecotropes but please wear gloves!**
5. It is not unusual to see a few soft or mucus containing stools after surgery. Feces should become normal within 48 hours after surgery as your rabbit begins to eat normally again. If fecal production stops or mucus-covered feces continue, consult a veterinarian immediately.

6. If it is part of a bonded pair or group, your rabbit may interact with its pair as long as they can interact calmly and there is no fighting. Rabbits frequently need to the emotional support of their mates during recovery.

7. If your rabbit was in heat at the time of surgery, she can still be receptive to males for 7-10 days. Keep her confined and away from male rabbits, even if they are neutered. In addition, males may still have viable sperm for several weeks. Separate males and females for at least 3 weeks. Attempts at mating during this time can cause severe injury.

Care of the surgical incision:

Your rabbit’s incision has been closed with surgical glue. You do not need to bring your rabbit back to have any sutures removed. No bandages are necessary. Do not wash the incision or put anything on it. Inspect the incision daily, and make sure it stays clean and dry. If there is any sign of infection in the incision area, such as excessive bleeding, excessive redness or pus, bring your rabbit to see a veterinarian immediately.

Males: Males do not have sutures because their incision is only ¼ inches long. Inspect the incision site daily to ensure that it is clean and dry. The incisions should be completely healed in about 5 days. Do not be alarmed if the scrotum is swollen. This is normal and will go away in 2-3 days. Cold compresses will help reduce this swelling.

Females: Females will have a shaved tummy. Inspect the incision site as soon as your rabbit arrives home so that you are aware of its appearance and will be able to notice any changes. Inspect the incision site daily to ensure that it is clean and dry. In a few days, you may notice some swelling at the incision site. If it looks something like a marble under the surface of the skin, this is normal and is just the body’s normal reaction to the internal sutures and incision. This will resolve after the stitches dissolve. The incision should be healed in 2 weeks. If your rabbit develops a fever, or there is any discharge or redness at the site, see a veterinarian immediately. If you notice any drainage at the incision site, and if the bulge is soft, movable, red or gapping, it may be infected and should be checked.

For additional information visit: http://rabbit.org/faq-spaying-and-neutering/

Important: If any intestinal material protrudes through the incision, it is an extreme emergency. Wrap a clean, damp towel around the rabbit’s abdomen and see a veterinarian right away.
For Emergencies or After-hour Questions

For issues related to a recent surgical procedure or clinic visit-

1. Try the clinic first especially during our normal office hours of Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm, and most Fridays 8am-1 pm October-May. (Closed most Fridays during summer months) The clinic # is (508) 672-4813.

2. On evenings and weekends: Please limit calls for TRUE EMERGENCIES only. Most questions can be answered by reading through the discharge papers. Please read these papers before calling. **** This phone will be turned off from midnight to 7am weeknights and midnight to 9am weekends. If you feel that you have an emergency related to a procedure done at Pet Partners, please do not hesitate to call our phone during available hours. If you do not receive a return call shortly, please call your full-service veterinarian or one of the emergency clinics listed below. The emergency # is (508) 493-0393

For issues NOT related to services rendered at Pet Partners please call your full-service veterinary clinic. If you don’t have one or they are not available you may contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MA-RI Vet ER</th>
<th>Bay State Vet Service</th>
<th>The Animal Emergency Center</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>477 Milford Rd.</td>
<td>76 Baptist St.</td>
<td>595 West Center St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swansea MA</td>
<td>Swansea, MA</td>
<td>W. Bridgewater, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(508)730-1112</td>
<td>(508) 379-1233</td>
<td>(508) 580-2515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across form Swansea Mall</td>
<td>near Rt 6 and 136</td>
<td>Exit 16B off Rt. 24, Next to Mobil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Most problems encountered by pets following surgery arise from the owner allowing their pet to be too active or licking of the incision area. So please follow the after-care instructions. **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND PURCHASING A LAMP-SHADE COLLAR TO PREVENT LICKING, ESPECIALLY FOR DOGS.**

Pet Partners cannot accept responsibility for the care of your pet after it leaves the clinic. Therefore, payment for ANY services rendered by another clinic FOR ANY REASON WILL BE THE OWNER’S RESPONSIBILITY.

Evaluations at Pet Partners during clinic hours - minimum $30 plus supplies. Weekday evening hours -minimum $50 plus supplies (payable in CASH). Weekends and Holidays -minimum $90 plus supplies (payable in CASH).

Please make every attempt to call the clinic during office hours for questions or problems.

I have read the above information and agree to the terms.

_______________________________________          ___________________          _____/_____/_____
Owner (or designated caretaker/representative)           Pet’s name(s)        Date