

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

— ELIZABETHAN COLLAR (E-COLLAR) INSTRUCTIONS —



Your pet must wear an Elizabethan collar (E-Collar) to keep them from damaging a surgical site or a bandage. Please be advised if your pet licks or chews at their surgery site or bandage, this can result in serious complications. Complications include, but are not limited to: skin irritation, infection, and tissue damage. When pets open their incisions by licking and chewing, this can result in discomfort, possibly needing additional surgery for the pet and additional costs for you, the owner.

Hard plastic E-collars must extend past the tip of the pet's nose. Soft collars are not recommended because they can easily collapse allowing pets to reach their incision. We also cannot recommend air-filled "donut" collars as they do not prevent pets from licking surgery sites on the legs, tail, and other areas of their body.

If your pet is able to reach their surgery site with the E-collar that was dispensed, contact your local veterinarian, or **Northstar VETS® (609) 259-8300**, or drive to the nearest pet store to purchase the next size larger as soon as possible. If your pet is able to pull off the collar, try attaching it to their neck by using a nylon collar through the loops of the E-collar or tie it to a chest harness for additional security. If they are able to bend/crack the hard plastic and get to the surgery site and/or bandage, they may need to wear two E-collars at once. Contact us for medication options if your pet is experiencing excessive anxiety while wearing an E-collar.

Only under close supervision may you remove your pet's E-collar for short periods of time. The collar must be replaced immediately if you are leaving them unsupervised (even for a few minutes). With an appropriately fitted E-collar your pet will be able to eat, drink and sleep normally.

The E-collar is an extremely important part of your pet's recovery and must be used until the incision is completely healed and the sutures/staples have been removed. If your pet is wearing a splint or bandage, the collar must be used for the entire time they are bandaged and for several days after bandage removal.



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