

Your Pet's Spay/Neuter Procedure: What to Expect and How to Prepare

Spay (Ovariohysterectomy): A spay is the surgical removal of ovaries and uterus from dogs and cats to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Benefits include prevention of uterine infection (pyometra) and significant reduction of mammary cancer risk.

Neuter (Orchidectomy): A Neuter is the surgical removal of testicles from male dogs and cats to help prevent unwanted breeding. Benefits include prevention of prostate enlargement and testicular cancer, reduction of unwanted marking, inter-male aggression and roaming in search of females.

Together we have reviewed the updated recommendations and timing of surgery to ensure the best health and preventive benefits for your pet. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

PREPARING FOR THE PROCEDURE:

Before the procedure, you'll receive a treatment plan and consent form. The consent form can be signed either virtually or in person and should be returned to the clinic before the procedure date, if possible.

Cerenia: We recommend giving your pet Cerenia, an anti-nausea tablet, 2 hours prior to surgical admit to help reduce nausea and support a quicker return to appetite after surgery. As this medication is dosed by weight, your pet may need to be weighed prior to their surgery date. If you are unable to administer the medication at least 2 hours prior to your surgical admission time, please give it at bedtime the night before.

Preanesthetic Bloodwork: We recommend performing this diagnostic testing 1-2 weeks prior to your pet's surgery to ensure they are a good candidate for the procedure. This bloodwork helps to ensure they have normal blood cell counts and healthy internal organ function, enhancing the safety of the procedure and reducing the risk of complications.

Fasting: No food should be given after 10:00 pm the night before the procedure. Water is permitted until 6:00 am on the day of the procedure.

Calming Medication: Calming medication may be prescribed to help ease any fear or anxiety your pet may have. This can be administered the night before the procedure and again in the morning, 2 hours before admission.

Important Instructions for Chronic Medication: If your cat or dog is taking Fortekor (Benazepril), Enacard (Enalapril), Semintra (Telmisartan) or Theophylline, please do not give this medication for the 24 hours before your pet's procedure. **For cats only:** Please discontinue Omega 3 fatty acids 14 days prior to the procedure and then restart the day after.

Reminder Call: A Veterinary Technician will call the day prior to the procedure to confirm the admission time and fasting instructions, review the consent form, and answer any questions you may have.

THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE:

On the morning of the procedure, you will meet with a Veterinary Technician at your scheduled admission time. The admission will take 10-15 minutes to review the consent form, additional services, questions, and any health concerns. Your pet will receive a gastrointestinal diet upon their recovery. If your pet requires a special diet, please bring it with you. You are welcome to bring your pet's favourite toys or blanket for enhanced comfort.

Pre-Surgical Exam & Assessment: Upon admission, we will perform a full physical exam, including recording your pet's vital signs, and provide them with a comfy bed and any support items you've brought from home.

PRE-SURGICAL EXAM & ASSESSMENT:

Our procedures are performed under general anesthesia, with all measures taken to ensure a safe, comfortable, and fear-free experience for our patients from start to finish.

Step 1: Your pet will be given pain control and a sedative to help calm their anxiety and prepare them for a smooth, comfortable procedure.

Step 2: An intravenous catheter is placed to allow safe administration of medications for the induction of anesthetic. IV fluids are initiated to maintain hydration, provide blood pressure support, and allow for a better recovery from anesthesia.

Step 3: Intubation with an endotracheal tube allows inhalant anesthetic and oxygen to be administered and ensures your pet's airway and ventilation is safely and properly protected.

Step 4: Constant anesthetic monitoring is performed by a qualified Veterinary Technician and involves monitoring your pet's heart rate, breathing, ECG, oxygen levels, blood pressure, hydration, and temperature. A patient warming system is used, as well as socks and warm packs, to keep your pet cozy during their procedure.

Step 5: We use multimodal pain management which involves using a blend of short- and long-acting pain medication and nerve blocks prior to, during, and after the surgery to ensure better healing and a calm, pain-free recovery.

Step 6: The surgical procedure is performed by our skilled Veterinarians who will ensure the best decisions and care is provided for your pet.



A Peek Inside the Surgical Suite



**Anesthetic
Machine**



IV Pump



**Hot Dog
Warming Pad**



**Anesthetic
Monitoring**

RECOVERY FROM PROCEDURE:

After the procedure, your pet will be wrapped in warm blankets with heating packs and closely monitored. A Veterinary Technician will stay with them until they are fully recovered. Additional pain medication will be provided as needed to ensure their comfort.

Once your pet has recovered, our team will call to provide an update and schedule pickup. A customized medication plan will be created to ensure your pet's comfort at home, and calming medication may be discussed if needed for a smooth recovery.

To prevent interference with stitches, a cone collar will be provided for 1-2 weeks. Other aids to help prevent licking include Cloud collars and Medi-Shirts.



Cloud Cone



E-Collar



E-Collar



Soft Collar

Pick-Up Time: At the scheduled discharge time, you will meet with a veterinary technician to review the procedure, any sutures or treated areas, how to protect the surgical site, and receive home care instructions. We will also go over medication administration and timing for recovery. Please bring any questions you have to ensure a smooth recovery. We will discuss plans for a follow-up visit or photo consult in 10-14 days to check on healing and recovery.

THE DAY AFTER SURGERY:

We will call the day after the surgery to check in, make sure you and your pet are doing well, and address any further questions. Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

AFTER SPAYING & NEUTERING:

Your pet's personality will remain the same, but their reproductive drive will decrease. Males may still be fertile for 3-6 weeks due to residual sperm, so, it is best to keep them away from intact females. Removing reproductive organs can reduce metabolic rate by 10-25%, so adjust your pet's caloric intake accordingly. At 12 months of age (or 18-24 months for giant breed dogs), switch to a high-quality adult food and monitor their weight, as they may still have the appetite of a growing pet.

**We appreciate being able to take part in this journey with you and your pet!
Please do not hesitate to ask any further questions.**

**Sincerely,
Veterinarians and Staff of Ilderton Pet Hospital**