



## **What to expect for your pet's spay or neuter...**

Do not feed your pet after 10pm the night before the procedure. Water does not need to be taken away.

Please bring your pet in between 7 and 7:30am for check in. This check-in time allows us to begin getting all of our patients ready for their surgery. We start surgeries first thing in the morning and, depending on how many we have for the day, may finish in early to mid-afternoon.

If your pet has not been examined recently, our doctors will perform a pre-surgical exam.

If you elect, pre-anesthetic blood work is completed the morning of surgery and reviewed by the doctor prior to anesthesia. This will enable the doctors to make any needed adjustments to the medications used for anesthesia. If significant abnormalities are found on this blood work, the doctor may choose to postpone the procedure and investigate these changes more thoroughly.

You also have the option of having blood work performed prior to the morning of surgery. Since an outside diagnostic laboratory is used for this earlier blood work, we are able to offer a larger blood panel at the same price. In addition to the same pre-operative screen that is run in-house, blood clotting times will be checked. Normal clotting times decrease the possibility of post-op bleeding complications. Abnormal clotting times would require that further testing and precautions be performed prior to any surgical procedure. Blood work that is performed prior to the spay or neuter should be scheduled within 7 days of surgery.

A pre-anesthetic drug will be given to relax your pet and help with pain control.

If you elect, an IV catheter will be placed in the morning prior to the spay or neuter. This catheter will allow easy access to a vein in the event of an emergency. It will also allow us to administer fluids during the procedure which can help maintain blood pressure and aid in blood flow to the liver and kidneys.

Once your pet is under anesthesia, we have a dedicated nurse monitoring vitals during the entire surgery.

During the pre-operative exam and once your pet is under anesthesia, one of our doctors will examine the mouth closely for the presence of any deciduous (baby) teeth that should have already been lost. If any of these teeth have been retained, we recommend extraction at the time of the surgery. These retained teeth can crowd the mouth and negatively impact the adult teeth. There is an additional cost per tooth – if these are found, we will call for approval before performing any extractions.

We will call you when the procedure is complete (or during the procedure if we have any questions or updates for you). Normally your pet can go home after surgery between 5 and 7pm, but the doctor will let you know the exact time based on how quickly your pet is waking up from anesthesia.

Please be sure to ask any questions you may have! We will be happy to answer them for you.