

Neutering Your Dog

Why should I have my dog neutered?

Neutering (castration) is recommended for several reasons. Males that are not neutered run a higher risk of many diseases including prostate cancer, peri-anal gland cancer, prostate hyperplasia and prostate infection. Castration can also reduce the risk of certain types of aggression, urine marking and unwanted sexual behaviours, as well as roaming and wandering.

From a community and animal welfare standpoint, neutering eliminates the risk of unwanted puppies, and contributes to reducing unwanted pets and animal cruelty.

When should I have my dog neutered?

For most dogs, neuter should be done at 6 months old, but in some cases, it may be recommended to have it done later (12-18 months). Your veterinarian will be happy to help you determine what is best for you and your pet.

How does it work?

The night before the surgery, remove his food at 9PM, but always leave water available to him. Bring your dog to the Hospital between 8:00 and 8:30 the day of the surgery. We will weigh him and you will meet a veterinary technician who will do a physical exam, offer pre-operative testing and have you sign a consent form for the surgery. She can also answer any questions or concerns you may have. For the protection of your dog and every pet in the hospital, all patients must be up to date for vaccinations prior to surgery.

The operation

After admission, we will give your dog a sedative. Once the sedative has taken effect, he will receive an intravenous anesthetic which will make him sleep deeply enough for us to put a breathing tube in his trachea (wind pipe). The tube delivers gas anesthetic and oxygen to the patient to keep him soundly asleep and well oxygenated during the procedure. The patient also receives a pain medication injection before the surgery begins, as well as IV fluids during the procedure.

Once he is anesthetized, we shave the surgical area before washing it with an antiseptic soap. Afterward we bring him to the operating room, install the monitoring equipment, and do a final disinfection of the skin while the surgeon is scrubbing. Before making the incision, the surgeon puts sterile drapes around the surgical site, so that only the disinfected skin is showing.

The surgery itself will take approximately 20-30 minutes. When the surgery is over, we stop the anesthetic gas flow, and monitor your dog closely until he wakes up enough to have his breathing tube removed and is able to swallow again. Then bring him to a recovery cage. When all the surgeries of the day are complete, we will call you to give an update on how the procedure went and set up an appointment for you to come pick him up later in the afternoon. When you come to pick him up, you will meet with a technician who will discuss the after care instructions with you.

After care

There shouldn't be any vigorous activity for at least 14 days after the surgery. Excessive activity increases the risk of post-surgical complications and can prolong the healing process. Since the sutures are all under the skin and will dissolve with time, there is no need to have sutures removed. Check the incision daily for swelling or discharge, and call us if you have any concerns.

If your dog licks his incision, it is very important that you come to the clinic to get him an Elizabethan collar to avoid him opening or infecting his incision.

