



Spay Neuter RoCo
Veterinary Clinic, PLLC
Spay/Neuter • Dentistry • Wellness

Spay/Neuter Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do the night before & morning of my pet's surgery appointment?

- Take up food and water after midnight the night prior to surgery. Removing food and water lessens chances that your pet will vomit and aspirate during surgery, this can be a very serious complication. Inform the front desk at check-in if your adult pet has eaten the morning of his/her surgery.
- On the morning of surgery take your dog on a walk to be sure they urinate/defecate prior to arrival. Bring dogs to the facility on a leash or in a secure crate. Bring cats in secure carriers and feral cats in traps.

What is the drop-off and pick-up procedure for surgery?

- Drop-off is between 7:30am and 8:30am on the surgical appointment date.
- All dogs must be on a leash or in a crate at all times. If your dog is not friendly to humans or other animals, please leave them in the car during check-in.
- All cats must be in their own secure carriers for check in, one cat per carrier.
- **All FERAL CATS MUST BE IN A TRAP. If you paid for feral cat services & the cat is not presented in a trap services will be declined.**
- For pick-up, you will be given an evening pick-up time during drop-off, typically 3pm-4pm. We do not house/board animals overnight at this facility.

****There are NO EXCEPTIONS for the rules listed above!****

What is spaying/neutering?

Spaying is the removal of the reproductive organs of female dogs & cats. Neutering is the removal of the testicles of male dogs & cats.

Benefits for your male pet:

- Stops the mating drive
- Reduces the urge to roam and therefore reduces injuries associated with roaming
- Reduces mounting
- Stops most causes of spraying to mark territory and makes it less likely if they are neutered while young
- Eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate cancer

Benefits for your female pet:

- Eliminates the heat cycle, stops the bloody discharge
- Promotes longer, healthier lives
- Ends vocalization during estrus
- Stops unwelcome visitors
- Reduces the incidence of a number of health problems such as ovarian cancer or breast cancer.
- Prevents your pet from having a pyometra, mucometra, or becoming pregnant.

Can vaccines be done at the time of spay/neuter?

Yes! Rabies along with other vaccinations can be given at the time of surgery. We also offer heartworm/tick borne disease testing for dogs and FIV/FelV testing for cats. When you request a spay/neuter surgery you will select all other services within that form.

Who is a candidate for spay/neuter at this facility?

Healthy dogs & cats with NO underlying health conditions

What is an underlying health concern? What should I do if my pet has one?

"Underlying health concerns" – include but are not limited to diabetes, any neurological disorder including seizures, heart disease (including murmurs), obesity, cancer, kidney disease, liver disease, genetic conditions, bleeding disorders, etc. If your pet has any type of underlying health condition, the spay/neuter procedure should be carried out at a full-service veterinary clinic to ensure the best care for your pet. Please note that the Veterinarian has the right to decline any animal that may be of increased anesthetic risk.

Dogs/Puppies

- Males & Females—Must be at least 4 months of age & at least 5lbs
- Males-Both testicles palpable—Cryptorchid procedures may be performed at doctor's discretion & with additional fees
- In-heat female dogs-will be rescheduled for approximately 3-4 weeks after heat cycle ends
- Dogs 7 years & older require pre-anesthetic bloodwork at an additional fee
 - Dogs of any age may receive pre-anesthetic blood at owner's request & for an additional fee

Cats/Kittens

- Males & Females—Must be at least 4 months of age & at least 3-4lbs
- Males-Both testicles palpable-- Cryptorchid procedures may be performed at doctor's discretion & with additional fees
- In-heat female cats can be scheduled at any time (no additional fee)
- Cats 7 years & older require pre-anesthetic bloodwork at an additional fee
 - Cats of any age may receive pre-anesthetic blood at owner's request & for an additional fee

Why don't you spay female dogs who are in-heat?

There are increased risks due to an animal, especially dogs being in heat. One of the most prominent risks is the possibility of there being significant swelling, tissue changes and additional bleeding during heat.

What should I do if I have a brachycephalic (short-nosed, "squished-face") dog or cat?

At this time, we do not perform spay or neuter surgeries on English bulldogs, French bulldogs, Pugs, Persian cats or Himalayan cats. Brachycephalic pets are twice as likely to have anesthesia complications as non-brachycephalic pets. Other brachycephalic breeds will be considered on a case by case basis, owners will need to sign a high-risk waiver for surgery and additional fees will apply. Please note that the Veterinarian has the right to decline any animal that may be of increased anesthetic risk.

What should I do if I have a large breed, deep-chested dog?

We do not perform spay/neuter on dogs over 75 lbs at this time.

We highly recommend very large and giant breed dogs having a gastropexy procedure at a full-service Vet when spayed/neutered.

It is highly recommended that the above breeds such as Great Danes, St. Bernards, Dobermans, etc. receive a prophylactic gastropexy "stomach tuck" to help prevent GDV. GDV is a life-threatening condition for dogs. As the name indicates, the stomach fills with gas (i.e. dilation) and twists (i.e. volvulus). To have this procedure performed the spay/neuter & prophylactic gastropexy "stomach tuck" procedure should be carried out at a full-service veterinary facility. Please note that the Veterinarian has the right to decline any animal that may be of increased anesthetic risk.

Does my pet need a cone/e-collar?

At our clinic we provide a hard-plastic cone as that is what we see work best in most cases to keep their pet from licking or chewing the surgery site. There are also other options such as soft cones and recovery suits that are available at in-person and online retailers. All recovery items should be used for the 10-14-day healing period.

Is pain medication necessary?

YES! We have mandatory pain medication for each surgery patient.

- Dogs will receive a 24-hour pain & anti-inflammatory injection the day of the procedure. They will go home with oral pain & anti-inflammatory medication for 4 days to be started the next morning after surgery.
- All Cats will receive a 24-hour pain & anti-inflammatory injection the day of the procedure. Cat spays will go home with oral pain & anti-inflammatory medication for 3 days to be started the next morning after surgery. Cat neuters & feral cats will not receive additional oral pain medications unless requested by owner.

These medications are VERY important for level of comfort, decreasing inflammation, general healing and prevention of post-op complications.

Does my pet need to come back for staple/suture removal or anything else post-op?

Unless there is a concern, your pet does not need to come back for a recheck after surgery. For our usual surgeries there is internal suture that will slowly dissolve as your pet's incision heals, and surgical glue applied to the exterior. Staples or external sutures are not done with our routine surgeries unless specifically deemed necessary by our surgeon.

What are the types of spay/neuters completed here?

- Our female spay surgeries for dogs and cats are done abdominally, and it is typically a complete ovariohysterectomy, but an ovariectomy may be performed in some cases at surgeon's discretion. These incisions are closed internally with suture and externally with surgical glue. There should not be drainage from this incision.
- Our male cat neuters are all done as scrotal incisions, on the scrotum. The testicles are removed, and the spermatic cord is tied off internally. There is no suture or glue applied to this incision as it is left open to drain.
- Our male dog neuters are performed via a scrotal approach. Scrotal neuters are done in a similar fashion to our cat neuters, but it is closed internally with suture and external surgical glue.

For all neuters (Dog and Cat) there is not a scrotal ablation done, which means there will still be an empty scrotum sac after the neuter is completed. These sacs generally shrink with time after healing.

Large breed dogs, very active dogs and dogs with large scrotum sacs are at higher risk for scrotal hematoma (collection of blood/fluid inside scrotum). You should keep them as quiet/calm as possible, give pain & anti-inflammatory medications as well as ice the scrotum sac every 12 hours for the first 2-3 days post-neuter. Medications to aid in calming the pet may be offered for an additional fee.

Why does my pet get a tattoo during their surgery?

After your pet comes home from their spay/neuter you may see a small green 'incision' on their abdomen or inner thigh. This green line is sterilization indicator tattoo, which as it sounds is a universal indication that your pet has been sterilized with reproductive organs removed. The green tattoo is a permanent mark that notifies all future veterinarians and shelter personnel that this patient has already been sterilized. This tattoo is not optional.

Why is my feral cat receiving an ear tip?

Feral cat ear-tipping involves surgically removing a small portion of the cat's left ear while the cat is under anesthesia for spay/neuter surgery. It is the universally accepted way to signify that a feral/community cat has been spayed or neutered. Ear-tipping is not optional for feral cats.