

Pre-Anesthetic Expectations
Spay or Neuter Procedures

The following procedures occur when your pet undergoes a spay or neuter procedure:

1. Upon admission into the hospital, your pet's vitals are taken by a trained technician, followed by bloodwork if your veterinarian deems it necessary.
2. After your veterinarian has inspected your pet and all findings are normal, your pet is then given a pre-anesthetic sedative, followed by the anesthetic induction agent.
3. Your pet is then prepared for surgery. Your pet's abdomen (and scrotum for neuters) will be clipped of fur. Your pet's incision site will then be scrubbed to ensure a sterile environment.
4. Your veterinarian will then perform the sterilizing procedure.
5. After the procedure, your pet is moved into recovery where the technicians closely monitor your pet, ensuring a safe anesthetic recovery.

Whether your pet will undergo brief or prolonged anesthesia, it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. It is very important to keep your pet quiet during the recovery phase. Your pet may need to be cage-rested in order to prevent running, jumping, or roughhousing before his/her incision site has healed. It is also important to prevent your pet from licking/chewing at the incision site (you may use an e-collar or something similar). Lastly, the incision site should be kept clean and dry for two weeks.
2. You may place an ice pack on your pet's incision site for 10-15 minutes to ease your pet's discomfort and prevent swelling and inflammation. This can be repeated every 3-4 hours, if needed.
3. Anesthetic medications may make your pet feel sick to his/her stomach. For this reason, it is important to feed half of the normal portion of food the night following anesthesia (unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian). Your pet may vomit some food after anesthesia (this is not uncommon).
4. If medications, especially antibiotics, were prescribed by your veterinarian, please administer them as directed for the entire duration. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your pet's medications.
5. We ask that you contact the hospital if you notice any of the following changes after your pet's procedure: prolonged refusal to eat or drink, vomiting, diarrhea, prolonged lethargy, and/or bleeding.

If you have any other questions regarding the care of your pet, please do not hesitate to call our office.