

CASTRATION

What is a castration?

A surgical castration is the correct term for a neuter. This procedure is performed on male dogs and cats, and entails the removal of the testicles. The penis, sheath, and scrotum remain unaltered. The incision is made between the sheath and scrotum, and the sutures are usually all internal.

Why should I neuter my dog or cat?

Un-neutered, or intact, male pets have a higher risk of health problems as they get older, including prostate enlargement, prostate infections, and testicular cancer. Neutering also helps to prevent unwanted behaviors such as aggression, wandering, urine marking, and inappropriate mounting of people or other dogs/cats. In addition, puppies and kittens from accidental breedings may contribute to the current problem of pet overpopulation, resulting in more unnecessary deaths in animal shelters.

How long is the recovery period?

Dogs and cats recover quickly from a neuter. Most pets will be groggy the night after surgery, and back to themselves by the following day. They need to be kept quiet for 7-10 days after the surgery, and dogs will need to wear an Elizabethan collar for 7-10 days to prevent licking at the incision.

At what age should my pet be neutered?

Dogs: 6-10 months of age. Cats: 4-6 months of age. By six months, the baby teeth have mostly fallen out. If there are any retained baby teeth left by six months, they most likely will need to be extracted, which can be done on the same day as the neuter. We recommend neutering cats at a younger age, as delayed neutering can lead to unwanted urine marking. In addition, they very rarely have retained baby teeth.

What can I expect the day of surgery?

You will drop your pet off at the clinic between 7:10am and 7:30am. We will perform a routine blood panel to determine that your pet does not have any health problems that would contraindicate anesthesia, and then administer a light sedative. Your pet will receive intravenous fluids throughout the procedure and for several hours after he recovers from anesthesia. A neuter usually takes between 15-20 minutes, depending on the size and age of the pet. We will provide injectible medication to control any pain before and/or after the procedure, and we will also send home oral pain medication for 4-7 days post-operatively for dogs.

Approximate cost: \$275-\$350

- The cost of a neuter will vary depending on the size and age of the dog or cat.
- We provide high quality surgical care similar to the way a human hospital operates. For details about our surgical protocols, please ask a staff member for the appropriate brochure.
- The above estimate does not include the pain medication sent home, nor does it account for any complications.
- We can provide you with a personalized estimate at any time.

OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY

What is an ovariectomy?

An ovariectomy (OVH) is commonly called a spay. This procedure consists of removing both the ovaries and the uterus. This prevents both pregnancy and also the regular heat cycles of female dogs and cats. The incision is made on the belly, and usually the sutures are all internal.

Why should I spay my dog or cat?

Intact, or unspayed, female pets have more potential health problems as they get older, such as mammary cancer, life threatening uterine infections, and ovarian cysts. In addition, puppies and kittens from accidental breeding may contribute to the current problem of pet overpopulation, resulting in more unnecessary deaths in animal shelters.

How long is the recovery period?

Cats and dogs recover quickly from an OVH. They are usually groggy the night after the surgery, and mostly back to themselves by the following day. They need to be kept quiet for 10 days after the surgery, and most will need to wear an Elizabethan collar for 10 days to prevent licking at the incision.

At what age should my pet be spayed?

We recommend doing an OVH by six months of age to prevent the first heat cycle, which can occur as early as six months. Each heat cycle that a female dog or cat experiences dramatically increases their risk of mammary cancer later in life. Also, by six months, the baby teeth have mostly fallen out. If there are any retained baby teeth left by six months, they most likely will need to be extracted. This can be done at the same time, eliminating the need for a second anesthetic procedure.

What can I expect the day of surgery?

You will drop your pet off at the clinic between 7:10am and 7:30am. We will perform a routine blood panel to determine that your pet does not have any health problems that would contraindicate anesthesia, and then administer a light sedative. Your pet will receive intravenous fluids throughout the procedure and for several hours after she recovers from anesthesia. An OVH usually takes between 20 minutes and 1 hour, depending on the size and age of the pet. We will provide injectible medication to control any pain before and/or after the procedure, and we will also send home oral pain medications for 4-7 days post-operatively.

Approximate cost: \$325-\$450

- The cost of a spay will vary depending on the size and age of the pet.
- We provide high quality surgical care similar to the way a human hospital operates. For details about our surgical protocols, please ask a staff member for the appropriate brochure.
- The above estimate does not include the oral pain medication that is sent home.
- We can provide you with a personalized estimate at any time.