

NEUTERING YOUR PET

Neutering (castration of the male) is a surgical procedure recommended for most male dogs over six months of age. Cats may be neutered as early as 12 weeks. The benefits of neutering are:

1. A dramatic decrease in the incidence of prostate problems, tumors around the anus and hernias by the rectum in the older animal.
2. Eliminating the risk of testicular tumors.
3. Working to prevent the territorial "spraying" of some male cats.
4. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies.

Dog testicles are removed through an incision just in front of the scrotum. However, cat testicles are removed through a scrotal incision.

Any pet coming into the hospital for surgery is first given a thorough physical examination. Anything found during the exam which could cause problems will be discussed prior to surgery. Just as your own doctor would never place you under a general anesthetic without first running blood tests to rule out any possible underlying problems, our veterinarians may recommend a presurgical blood screen for your pet.

Since it is a major surgical procedure, the castration is performed with the pet placed under full general anesthesia. The pet sleeps painlessly through the entire operation. To make the surgery as safe as possible, the type of anesthetic used is tailored to the health and physical condition of your pet. A freshly sterilized pack of surgical instruments is used for each individual patient. This is vitally important for preventing serious infections. The surgery is performed in our operating room which is used only for sterile surgical procedures. Surgery is performed by fully gowned and gloved licensed veterinarians.

After surgery, each patient is carefully monitored by our veterinarians, trained staff members and medical technicians until he is fully awake and for the duration of his stay. No pet is dismissed from the hospital until we are satisfied that he is fully recovered from the anesthetic and stable from the surgery. Most pets will go home the day after surgery. Cats generally go home late in the afternoon of the surgery.

Castrated patients do go home with sutures in the skin incision (except for cats) which are removed by us at no additional charge in 10-14 days. We do ask that your pet be moderately restricted in activity for the first week after going home, and that his incision area be kept as clean and dry as possible (no swimming until the sutures are removed).

The Pahle Small Animal Clinic strives to perform all surgical procedures with the highest medical and recovery standards as set forth by the profession. Our acquired expertise in surgery, diagnostic and medical work-ups, and patient management have enabled this hospital to become a certified member of the American Animal Hospital Association. This prestigious organization requires on site inspection of our facilities and techniques to qualify for and maintain membership. If you have any other questions about the procedure or regarding your specific pet, please don't hesitate to ask our trained staff or one of our veterinarians. Whenever you are ready to schedule your pet's surgery, just call us at 541-6440. Our receptionist will be happy to set up the appointment.