



Neutering - Microchipping - Pre-Surgery Blood Screening

Neutering

Neutering is the general term which means either castration (for males) or ovarian hysterectomy/spay (for females). There are many different opinions on when your pet should be neutered or if they should be neutered at all.

For male pets, castration can decrease their tendency to wander, get into fights, or show aggression. Intact males have a potential to develop a cancerous process in their reproductive tract. They can also have enlargement of their prostate, which can make going to the bathroom very uncomfortable.

For female pets, spaying them can eliminate them going through heat cycles. Female dogs can bleed during their cycle and may be uncomfortable during that time. Intact females have a greater chance to develop cancer in their reproductive tract and mammary glands. The more heat cycles that they go through, the higher the risk.

There are some benefits to keeping your pet intact. Studies have shown that animals who are allowed to physically mature may have a stronger ligament structure and also have a better-balanced skeleton.

Ultimately the choice is yours. We do recommend that you wait until your pet is at least 6 months old to have them neutered. We are happy to discuss the details of the surgery with you as well as any additional questions that you may have.

Microchipping - A Permanent Identification

Microchipping is the process of placing a small 'chip'/transmitter (the size of a grain of rice) under your pet's skin. This chip has a unique identification number that can reunite people with their pet(s), as well as serving as proof of ownership. It is more permanent than a collar which can be lost if an animal wanders off.

The microchip ID is administered through a fairly large needle, which is specifically made for this purpose. It is similar to getting a vaccine 'shot' but may be a bit more uncomfortable. This procedure can be performed during an appointment or when/if your pet comes in to be neutered (this will minimize discomfort).

The clinic will provide you with the appropriate instructions on how to complete your pet's registration after a microchip has been implanted.

Pre-Surgery Blood Testing

An examination is performed on pets before they have surgery, but there are some problems that an examination alone cannot detect. During surgery animals are receiving anesthesia and medications that their body has to process. That is why the hospital recommends to have blood testing performed to ensure that they are healthy (both inside and out!). We can discuss more of what the blood testing screens for and our specific recommendations at your pet's appointment.