



Verzijlenberg Veterinary Hospital
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Spaying (Ovariohysterectomy) Neutering (Orchidectomy)

Spay / Neuter is recommended at 6 months of age (but can be done at any age for those who would like to breed their pet).

Spaying greatly reduces the risk of breast cancer which is very common in unsprayed females around 6 years of age. It also eliminates the possibility of Pyometra and ovarian cancer.

Neutering greatly reduces/eliminates infections of the prepuce (the common dripping from the penis) and also reduces the behavior to roam in order to find females. It eliminates testicular cancer.

Things to keep in mind when you are bringing your pet in for surgery.

- Your pet should not eat the night before (6 PM for large dogs, 8PM for smaller dogs) An empty stomach helps prevent regurgitation, or vomiting of stomach contents; and the aspiration of the contents into the lungs. Stomach contents has a high acid level and regurgitation and aspiration can cause death.
- The day of your pet's surgery he/she will be dropped off between 9:00-9:30 AM and we recommend to take your pet for a walk to allow any elimination prior to surgery.
- A health examination will be performed the day of the surgery to make sure your pet is in a condition able to deal with anesthetic.
- Dr. Frits always recommends to have a pre-anesthetic blood profile performed prior to surgery (within 3 months prior to surgery, and it can be performed the day of the surgery if needed. Results only take about 15 minutes). This blood profile allows the doctor to see how internal organ function is going and whether or not anesthetic regime needs to be adjusted in any way.
Bonus: If everything is normal the doctor will have a guideline to what your pet's blood profile shows under normal conditions. It also shows the doctor if your dog is potentially diabetic.
- The actual surgery takes anywhere from 30-60 minutes. Vital signs are closely monitored while the patient is in surgery and later in I.C.U. Pets are kept for the remainder of the day for observation and are discharged between 3:00 and 4:30 PM. Pets are most comfortable at home so we believe in letting the patient return home as soon as he/she is able.
- Pain medication and antibiotics are always given (injectable while they are still under). Dosage depends on weight of the patient at time of surgery. There is a chance the doctor will decide for extra medication but this happens on a case by case basis.

