



## Neutering Your Pet

**CASTRATION, also called NEUTERING** is the medical term for surgically sterilizing the male dog. The testicles are removed because they are the major source of male hormones, which cause sexual interest, aggression, and urine marking of territory. Therefore, neutering the male pet provides significant advantage to the pet owner, as well as eliminating the ability to produce unwanted offspring and decreasing the risk of future medical problems, such as prostate cancer. In contrast, in humans the sperm transport tubes are cut to cause sterility, but the testicles are not removed allowing the man to continue to exhibit male characteristics.

Prior to surgery, all patients receive a pre-anesthetic physical examination and ECG Screening. All potential problems result in a phone call to you and are thoroughly discussed at that time. Just as your own doctor would never take you to surgery without first running "screening tests," we RECOMMEND a presurgical blood screen to detect many potential problems. Not all veterinary clinics run these tests on a routine basis. It is an optional way you can increase the anesthesia safety for your pet.

The procedures are performed under "general anesthesia." Anesthesia choices used in our hospital are extremely safe in both the young and the senior pets. Newer anesthetic choices we use are much safer in older pets than other choices commonly used in veterinary medicine just a few years ago. Effective pain management is *always* practiced.

Surgery is performed in an operating room equipped with monitors, emergency equipment, oxygen and ventilation equipment, and the most modern surgical instruments available, including a **surgical LASER**. All surgery is done using sterile gloves and surgical instruments. In our hospital, the same instrument pack is NEVER used on more than one animal without re-sterilization. Our clinic is committed to quality and therefore maintains high standards for both anesthesia and surgical procedures.

After surgery, our staff carefully monitors each patient until fully awake and stable. No pet is dismissed from the hospital until we are satisfied that it is fully recovered from anesthesia.

Very little care is required at home after hospital discharge. Pets usually go home the same day as surgery is performed.

Since many people "price-shop" these procedures, we suggest you be sure all prices quoted elsewhere are "all inclusive," and that you tour the facility before making your choice.

### Facts about Surgical Castration

#### **All male pets should be surgically neutered for many reasons, including:**

- Decreases the desire to roam the neighborhood.
- Decreases aggression – they become more affectionate pets.
- Decreases incidence of prostate cancer later in life.
- Reduce urine odors.
- Prevents tomcat spraying and dogs and cats marking furniture and walls.

#### **Your community will also benefit!**

Unwanted animals are a very real concern. Most unwanted animals result from unwanted, or "surprise", pregnancies. Even the most vigilant owners of intact males will be unable to monitor, control, and intervene every moment and in every circumstance. Intact males are much more likely to roam, (possibly after escaping from their fenced yards) and therefore mate, despite our best intentions. The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals will cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

#### **Facts & Myths about Neutering:**

- Personalities are **NOT** altered by castration. Personalities do **NOT** fully develop until two years of age. Aggressiveness and viciousness are not the result of surgery. Personalities will **ONLY** get better!
- Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and techniques, but there is **ALWAYS** some **SMALL** risk when an anesthetic is used. Best age to castrate pets is 3-6 months of age.
- Surgery is performed while your pet is under general anesthesia. Postsurgical pain is easily managed with appropriate medications.