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## ***Ear Cropping***

Ear cropping is a surgical procedure requiring general anesthesia. This is a purely cosmetic procedure and in no way necessary for the general welfare of your dog. As this is a cosmetic surgery, there is no guarantee on the procedure. This includes the shape, and if the ears will stand. We can guarantee that the surgery will be done to the best of our ability, and all surgical standards will be adhered to.

The best age for ear cropping is between 9 and 12 weeks of age. Many breeds cannot be done after this age, as the ears are not likely to stand. The type of crop depends on the future size, weight, head shape and general body conformation your pet will have. If you do not specify a style for the ears, they will be cropped in the standard way for the breed, with the length and width the doctor deems will look the best when the dog is mature.

Once the surgery is performed, the majority of aftercare is your responsibility. To be successful, you must follow the guidelines completely or you increase the risk of the ears NOT STANDING or scarring. It is a 4-6 week commitment that often involves lifestyle changes on your part. The puppy will need to be seen every 2-7 days until the ears are standing; 4-6 weeks is the average time it takes for the ears to stand. Please keep this in mind when considering having your puppy's ears cropped and schedule accordingly (vacation, holidays, work schedules, etc). Larger breeds and longer crop styles, will take longer than smaller breeds or shorter ear crops. When you return to the clinic for the re-wrapping and suture removal, you will not see the doctor. You must make an appointment before you come with the technician, preferably on the date we recommend. We realize that scheduling is difficult at times, but we must have the proper staff available to wrap your puppy's ears. Ear cropping surgery is scheduled typically on Mondays but may be scheduled on a Tuesday, or Thursday, on a case by case basis with Dr. Shaw.

### **Important Things to Note:**

- A. Your puppy **MUST** be on a vaccination program with proof of vaccines and he/she must also be free of parasites (fleas & worms).
- B. The first 7-10 days are the most difficult for you and your puppy. The ears begin to itch as they start healing. You must be very alert during this time so as not to let the pup harm the ears. Once the sutures are removed, the

aftercare is minimal and the process generally goes very smoothly.

- C. Above all, the ears must be taken care of and you must return for the follow-up visits, when we recommend. In the years of doing ear cropping, the failures (not standing or taking much longer than normal to stand) were usually cases of the owner not following our recommendations. You are spending a lot of money, and the puppy will have to "wear" the ears for the rest of its life, so let's work together and do it right.

**The base price for the ear crop is determined by breed and includes:**

- Pre-surgical examination
- Pre-surgical clotting time
- IV catheter and IV fluids
- Pre-surgical sedation and pain control
- Anesthetic induction drug(s) **\$475 Min Pin/Schnauzer**
- Isoflurane gas anesthesia **\$500 APBT/Amstaff**
- Pulse oximeter blood oxygen monitoring **\$550 Doberman Pinscher**
- ECG monitoring **\$575 Great Dane/Mastiff**
- Respiration monitoring
- Blood Pressure monitoring
- Operating room and supplies
- Surgeon's fee
- Post-op pain control
- Overnight hospitalization and care
- E-collar to protect scratching of the ears
- Anti-inflammatory tablets to go home
- Sedation to go home
- Pet-tinic liquid vitamin
- Quadritop Ointment (if needed)
- Subsequent return visits, including 5 ear wraps
  - **Due to the age or size of your puppy, additional medication may be required resulting in additional fees.**

**The Guidelines for Ear Cropping are as Follows:**

1. Prior to scheduling surgery, we require a deposit of 50% the cost of surgery. The deposit will be deducted from the cost of the surgery, but will not be refunded if the surgery appointment is cancelled within 48 hours of the scheduled surgery.
2. Do not give any food to your puppy after midnight the night before surgery (water is ok). The stomach must be empty.
3. The puppy must be brought to the clinic at the scheduled time the morning of surgery.
4. You must bring proof of current vaccinations (breeder records, veterinarian records, etc.) \*\*\*

5. Your puppy will be hospitalized the night of surgery.
6. The morning after the surgery, we ask that you call to arrange a pick up time. Each puppy recovers differently and may require longer or shorter hospitalization stay. At the time of pick up you will meet with a technician and review the discharge instructions and how to care for your puppy.
7. We require the bill be paid in full upon release of your puppy. We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover & CareCredit.
8. When your puppy is discharged you will be advised when the first follow-up appointment should be scheduled. This is generally in 5 days. Please make the appointment before you leave the clinic to see the technician for follow up care.
9. Your puppy must be given the sedatives that were sent home with you 1-2 hours prior to your appointment time (at least for the first 3 visits).
10. The e-collar **MUST STAY ON AT ALL TIMES** until the sutures are removed (usually 10 days); this is usually at your second post-op appointment.
11. If you notice ANY drainage or odor from the ear, call us immediately.
12. If the posts come out of the ear or if the posts break, call us immediately.  
This is also true if the wrapping gets wet. DO NOT put any tape on the ears.
13. If you have more than one puppy, they must be separated when not supervised. Southgate Animal Clinic is not responsible for damage done to the ears due to you allowing puppies to play with each other.
14. Once the sutures are removed, we may want to leave the pups ears down for 48 hours to let them air out. After this visit you will return weekly for 4-5 wraps, and then we will try them down. If they flop over or down, we will wrap them again. There is an additional charge for wrapping the ears if they do not stand after 6 wraps.

\*\*\*Please note if you are unable to provide proof of current vaccinations your pet will be kept in isolation and isolation charges will be incurred.\*\*\*