

## Canine Spay and Castration

In our routine surgery packages we perform testing and procedures designed to increase the level of safety and care for your dog.

- We first draw a blood sample and perform a CBC (complete blood count) and 14 blood biochemistries. These are done right in the clinic and we will have the results before we begin surgery. The biochemistries will give us information about your dog's liver and kidneys, total blood protein, electrolyte levels, and a blood glucose level to check for possible diabetes. The CBC will tell us if there are any signs of infection, anemia or low platelet numbers that could cause prolonged bleeding times. If these are all normal, we proceed to surgery, and we will then have healthy baseline blood levels for your pet.
- The next thing we do is place an IV catheter and administer IV fluids during the surgery. This is very helpful in maintaining fluid balance and preventing dehydration. It also gives us a rapid means of administering IV medications should the need arise.
- We also perform a fecal exam to check for intestinal parasites.

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We typically recommend surgery at 6 months of age. Some clients would prefer to have the surgery done sooner. We can perform the surgery as early as 3-4 months of age. If you have any questions, feel free to discuss them with the doctor.

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Your dog will be ready to go home the day after surgery between 9am and closing. A technician will go over the instructions and answer any questions you may have.

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Feeding restrictions the morning of surgery:

- Those under 6 months of age may eat ½ their normal meal prior to coming to the clinic. Water is okay until admission time.
- Dogs over 6 months of age should not be fed the morning of surgery. Water is okay until admission time.