

PREPARING YOUR PET FOR SURGERY



Your pet is scheduled to undergo anaesthesia or sedation tomorrow. The anaesthetic drugs used are similar to those in human medicine, and while there are inherent risks, following these instructions will help ensure a smooth and safe procedure for your pet.

PRE-SURGERY PREPARATION

- **Ensure your pet is clean.** Your pet will not be able to bathe for at least 10 days after surgery. If needed, please bath them before the day of surgery. A clean pet also reduces surgical site preparation time, minimising anaesthetic duration.
- **Fasting Instructions:**
 - **No food after 7:00 PM** the night before surgery (this includes treats!).
 - Water is **allowed** and should be freely available until admission.
 - If your pet requires morning **medication** with food, contact the clinic for guidance.
 - **Cats should be kept indoors** with a litter tray the night before admission to prevent overnight hunting and ensure they are easily accessible in the morning.


ADMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Arrival:** Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time. This allows our nurses to review admission details and answer any questions without unnecessary distractions.
 - Cats **must** be secured in a carrier.
 - Dogs **must** be on a lead.
 - Allow **10–15 minutes** for the admission process and paperwork.
- **Medication Disclosure:** Inform the nurse of any medications or supplements your pet is taking, including that morning's dose.

ANAESTHESIA AND SURGERY

- **Intravenous (IV) Fluids:** Your pet will be placed on IV fluids during anaesthesia to help maintain blood pressure, support organ function, and promote a faster recovery.
- **Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Testing:** Recommended for all anaesthetic patients, this test assesses organ function to help detect underlying conditions that could affect anaesthesia. If abnormalities are found, we can adjust the anaesthetic protocol accordingly.
- **Day Procedures:** Most surgeries are completed the same day, and pets typically go home in the afternoon.
- **Post-Surgery Discharge:** A surgical nurse will call you after the procedure to schedule a discharge time. Please arrive at the designated time and allow **10–15 minutes** for a detailed review of your pet's procedure and aftercare instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Desexing Identification:** Under Queensland law (Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008), all desexed cats and dogs must receive a small tattoo inside the left ear for quick identification.
 This tattoo is performed under general anaesthesia and is painless and non-disfiguring.
- **Microchipping Requirement:** Queensland legislation mandates that all dogs and cats be microchipped. Please inform us at admission if you wish to have your pet microchipped during surgery.
- **Payment Policy:** Full payment is required upon discharge. We accept cash, EFTPOS, VetPay*, and Zip* (*pre-approval required)

We look forward to seeing you and your pet tomorrow! If you have any questions, please contact us.

Desexing surcharges explained (page 2) →

DESEXING SURCHARGES EXPLAINED

South East Country Vets aim to provide the best care for your pet during desexing procedures. However, certain factors can make surgery more complex and time-consuming, leading to additional costs. Below are some of the most common reasons for desexing surcharges.

1. Speys During Early Pregnancy or When In Season

- **In Season:** When a female dog or cat is in heat, the reproductive organs are swollen and have an increased blood supply, making surgery more delicate and prone to complications. This increases both the surgery time and the risk level, requiring more caution.
- **Early Pregnancy:** Performing a spey during early pregnancy also adds complexity, as the blood supply to the uterus is higher and the tissue is more fragile. This necessitates more precision and care during the procedure.

2. Pregnancy Over 42 Days

- At this stage of pregnancy, the uterus is much larger, and there is a significant increase in blood flow to the area. A spey in late pregnancy requires additional surgical time and involves a higher level of complexity, which is why surcharges apply.

3. Overweight or Mature Pets

- **Overweight Pets:** Excess fat around the surgical site can make it more difficult to access and remove the reproductive organs, leading to a longer surgery. It can also increase the risk of complications such as bleeding and infection.
- **Mature Pets:** As animals age, their tissues become less pliable, and healing may take longer. Surgery on older pets tends to be more complex, requiring additional time and care.

4. Cryptorchidism (Retained Testicles)

- **Inguinal Cryptorchid:** This condition occurs when one or both testicles are located just under the skin in the inguinal (groin) region instead of the scrotum. Surgery requires a larger incision and more time to locate and remove the retained testicle(s).
- **Abdominal Cryptorchid:** In this case, one or both testicles remain in the abdomen. The surgery is more invasive and similar to a spey, requiring extra skill and time to ensure safe removal.

5. Scrotal Ablation

- This procedure involves the complete removal of the scrotal sac, usually recommended when a male pet has an enlarged or damaged scrotum, or in cases of ongoing infection or trauma. Since this is an additional step to standard desexing, it requires extra time and expertise.

6. Hernia Repair

- **Small Hernia:** Hernias are defects in the abdominal wall that allow tissues to protrude through. A small hernia may be easily repaired during desexing, but it adds time to the procedure.
- **Large Hernia:** Larger hernias are more complicated to repair, sometimes requiring more advanced surgical techniques and additional resources, increasing the duration and cost of the procedure.

Our Commitment

We understand that surcharges may be an unexpected part of your pet's desexing process. However, these additional steps are necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of your pet. Our team takes every precaution to ensure your pet has a smooth and successful recovery.