


# PREPARING YOUR PET FOR SURGERY



Your pet is scheduled to have an anaesthetic or sedation tomorrow. The anaesthetic drugs used on your pet are similar to those used in humans. Like humans, there are always risks involved in anaesthetics, by following these instructions you will help make your pet's visit as smooth and safe as possible.

- Please ensure your pet is clean. Your pet will not be able to have a bath for at least 10 days after surgery, so if your pet requires bathing, we recommend that it be done prior to the day of surgery. This also minimises the surgical site preparation and therefore decreases the anaesthetic time.
- **No food after 7pm the night before surgery (this includes treats!).**
  - Fasting from water is not required. It is vital that your pet has free access to water until admission.
  - If your pet requires **medication** with food in the morning, please contact the clinic for instruction.
  - Cats should be kept indoors with a litter tray the night before admission to ensure they haven't been out hunting overnight (and so that they're around when the cat cage comes out in the morning!)
- Please ensure you arrive at your set appointment time. This allows our nurses to go through admission with you and discuss any questions about the anaesthetic/ procedure without too many unnecessary distractions.
  - *Cats MUST be confined in a secure carrier, and dogs MUST be on lead, for their safety and for the safety of other pets at the clinic.*
  - Please allow 10-15 minutes for this appointment and paperwork.
  - Advise your admission nurse of any medications and dose rates (even home supplements) your pet may be taking and whether they have had that morning's medication.
- We routinely place your pet on intravenous fluids during anaesthesia. This helps to maintain blood pressure during the procedure, supports vital organ function and ensures a faster recovery from the anaesthesia.
- A pre-anaesthetic blood test is recommended to all patients undergoing an anaesthetic or sedation. This blood test gives us an insight into your pet's internal organ function required to metabolise anaesthetic drugs, which we may not be able to detect just on physical assessment and history. Undetected issues involving these vital organs carry a higher risk of anaesthesia for your pet. This blood test allows us to adjust doses or protocol if changes are detected.
- Most procedures are day procedures. You can expect your pet to go home later the same day.
- The surgical nurse will call you after the procedure to book a discharge time. Please arrive at the set time *and* allow 10-15 minutes for this appointment. During this appointment we will thoroughly go through your pet's procedure and the aftercare that will be needed to ensure a safe recovery.
- If your pet is getting desexed please note by Law, all cats and dogs Desexed in Queensland from 1 July 2009 must be tattooed to indicate they are desexed (*Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) ACT 2008*).
  -  This symbol placed inside the left ear allows simple and rapid identification of desexed animals. The tattoo is performed under general anaesthesia and is painless and non-disfiguring.
- It is Queensland legislation that all dogs and cats must be microchipped. Please advise us upon admission if you require your pet microchipped.
- Full payment of veterinary fees is required upon discharge of your pet. This can be received in the form of cash, EFTPOS, Vetpay\* or Zippay\* (*\*preapproval required*).

We look forward to seeing you and your pet tomorrow! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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# 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.