



**** Anesthesia, Surgery & Pain control ****

When your furry companion needs surgery, it's normal to have questions and concerns. We at Summer Street Animal Clinic understand your feelings and take pride in providing the best care for your pet. Below is an overview of what is covered in detail on the following pages.

ANESTHESIA

A certain amount of risk is unavoidable when administering anesthetics. At our clinic, we strive to minimize this risk as much as possible. Prior to all surgeries, our veterinarians complete a pre-anesthetic exam. Additionally, each client has the option to choose pre-anesthetic blood work for their pet prior to surgery. The purpose of these procedures is to assist the veterinarian in identifying any potential health risks that may complicate the surgery. During the actual surgery, we use modern anesthetics that are proven safe and reliable. A veterinary technician also monitors your pet throughout the procedure with the aid of advanced equipment.

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SURGERY

Surgeries are performed in our sterile surgical suite Monday through Friday. We typically ask that you drop off your pet at our office between 7:15 and 7:45 AM on the morning of the scheduled surgery. However, if this is inconvenient for you, we can arrange for you to drop your pet off the night before surgery at no extra charge. All surgeries are performed in the morning, and most surgical patients are discharged the same day, between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 PM. There are exceptions to this, though. For example, we keep cats who've been de-clawed overnight in order to remove their bandages the next morning.

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Cost

The average cost for some of our most commonly performed surgical procedures are listed below. Prices listed include the pre-anesthetic exam, complete anesthesia with monitoring, surgical fees, operating room fees, all pain control medications, and hospitalization.

Spay....**\$161.99-\$196.20

Neuter...**\$128.99-\$184.59

**Prices are dependent on species and the animal's weight. Prices may vary depending on unexpected complications that may arise during surgery. Specific estimates can be generated upon request.

The following procedures are also available as options at the time of surgery:

Pre-anesthetic blood work \$53.68

Nail trim while anesthetized \$ 5.90

Microchip implantation. \$75.90

All prices above are subject to change without notice. Customized written estimates are available upon request.

PAIN CONTROL

At Summer Street Animal Clinic, we want to keep your pet's discomfort at a minimum. Therefore, pain control is an integral part of every surgical procedure. Pets with adequately managed pain are not only more comfortable, but also heal faster as well.

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ANESTHESIA

When scheduling your pet's surgery, you may be concerned about the risks of anesthetizing your pet. This is perfectly understandable as the risks of anesthesia can be greater than the surgery itself. We understand your concerns and do our best to minimize your fears.



A pre-surgical examination is required within 24 hours of any anesthetic event. The doctor will do an exam focusing on many factors, such as heart rate and rhythm, to determine if your pet will be safe under anesthesia. We also recommend in-house pre-anesthetic blood work for every patient. Most anesthetic drugs are metabolized via the liver and kidneys. Pre-anesthetic blood work can tell our veterinarians how well your pet's liver and kidneys are functioning. It also provides information on your pet's blood sugars and proteins. We also perform a complete blood count. Receiving details about your pet's red and white blood cell counts, as well as their platelet count, helps our veterinarians determine whether or not your pet is healthy enough to undergo surgery. Finally, we require all our surgery patients to have a negative heartworm check.

Anesthetic procedures

If our veterinarians determine your pet is a good candidate for anesthesia, he/she will first be given a "pre-medication." This medication is a combination of drugs that relax your pet. Once relaxed, a small patch of hair is shaved, and an IV catheter is placed—generally in one of your pet's front legs. The IV catheter is placed for several reasons. First, it gives us direct access to our patient's bloodstream. Thus, we are able to administer anesthetic drugs, pain medication, or any other medications that may be necessary during the surgery. Additionally, the IV catheter allows our staff to give your pet heated fluids during surgery. This helps your pet maintain his/her body temperature, and keeps them hydrated.

After administering a combination of short-acting anesthetic drugs through the IV catheter, we intubate our patients. Intubation is the process of placing a breathing tube into a patient's windpipe. Through this tube, we are able to pass oxygen and anesthetic gases (isoflurane) during the actual surgery. Gas anesthesia is a very safe form of anesthesia and it promotes quick recoveries. During recovery, our patients are closely monitored by our staff. Our large recovery runs feature clear glass doors and are located only feet from our technicians' desks. We have heated floors and a Bair Hugger—two devices which speed recovery as they raise your pet's body temperature. Once your pet begins to wake up from surgery, both the intubation tube and the IV catheter are removed.



Monitoring

Our pre-surgical exams, blood work, and sophisticated anesthetic protocols are not the only aspects of anesthetic safety that we practice. The monitoring of your patient under anesthesia is a top priority as well. Trained veterinary technicians monitor your pet throughout his/her anesthetic event. Helping our technicians accomplish this task are a variety of monitoring devices that have the ability to track oxygenation, heart rate, blood pressure, respiration, temperature, ECG waveforms, and carbon dioxide saturation of the blood stream. This advanced equipment gives us the ability to intervene quickly by identifying anesthetic complications early.



SURGERY

Explanation of procedures

Spay - A “spay” of an animal literally refers to an ovariectomy. The surgeon initially makes an incision into the abdomen slightly below the belly button. The blood supply to both ovaries is identified and ligated. A similar procedure is performed on the uterus; then the uterus and ovaries are removed. The cervix and vagina, however, are not removed. The muscles of the abdomen are then stitched back together followed by the skin. All sutures are underneath the surface of the skin and therefore do not need to be removed as the body will naturally absorb them over time.

Neuter - A “neuter” of an animal literally refers to a castration as both testicles are entirely removed. The scrotum, however, is not removed. Dogs are neutered via an incision made slightly in front of the scrotum from which both testicles are exteriorized and ligated. The skin is then closed with sutures that are placed underneath the surface of the skin and, therefore, do not need to be removed as the body will absorb them over time. Cats are neutered via an incision over the scrotum itself. In cats, the spermatic cord is tied onto itself and no sutures are used.

Sterility

Sterility refers to the absence of bacteria and it is critically important in any surgical procedure. Sterility decreases the probability of post operative complications such as infection. Summer Street Animal Clinic takes numerous steps to maintain a sterile environment in which to perform surgery.

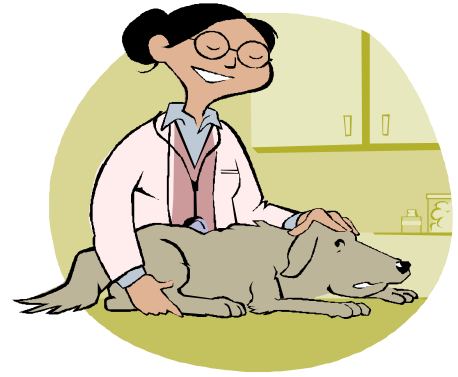
All procedures requiring a sterile environment are performed in our sterility secured surgical suite. Our surgical suite is ventilated with positive pressure to prevent microbes from entering when the doors are opened, and it is cleaned thoroughly every day. Admittance is not allowed into our surgical suite without a cap and mask to help prevent contamination.

Prior to entering the surgery room, your pet will have his/her hair shaved from the area requiring surgery. Antibacterial scrubs are then applied to the skin in multiple applications to remove any surface bacteria. After entering the surgical suite, a final preparatory scrub is done after the pet has been positioned for his/her procedure. Prior to performing surgery, our doctors put on caps and masks, wash their hands with soap, and then apply a special antibacterial lotion to their hands that has been proven to decrease contamination. For each surgical procedure, the surgeon puts on a new pair of gloves that come pre sterilized. All surgical instruments are sterilized in our autoclave and a new surgical pack is used for each patient. Additionally, all the suture we use comes in pre-sterilized packages with a new package being used for each patient.



During check-in, one of our receptionists will ask you for an emergency contact phone number. This is crucial in case there is an emergency and we need to contact you immediately. It is also important because following surgery, we call to inform you of how your pet’s surgery went. Most animals are alert enough to return to their owners the same day. However, they may be slightly tired from the procedure that evening.

PAIN CONTROL



Pain control is a critical component of any surgical procedure and Summer Street Animal Clinic continually strives to keep our patients as comfortable as possible following surgery. Pain control varies depending on the patient and the procedure performed, but it is given to EVERY surgical patient. Animals, like people, heal faster and return to their “normal” selves faster if they aren’t fighting pain during the recovery process.

Summer Street Animal Clinic employs the concept of pre-emptive analgesia. Pre-emptive analgesia involves the introduction of drugs into the system before creating a painful stimulus (such as an incision). The goal of pre-emptive analgesia is to provide more comfort to your pet than treating the pain once it is already present.

Due to this, each surgical patient receives morphine or a morphine derivative prior to surgery. If the surgical procedure warrants, we also use injectable NSAID’s (Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs) or local nerve blocks. During the actual surgical procedure, your pet will be anesthetized and will not feel any pain. Furthermore, the pain reducing drugs given prior to surgery will be working to reduce discomfort as your pet recovers.

During recovery, each patient is monitored for discomfort. If needed, additional doses of opiates or anti-anxiety drugs are given to make your pet more comfortable. Typically, patients are discharged with NSAIDS or opiates that are to be given during the first few days at home to allow for a more comfortable and speedy recovery.

Our staff and doctors welcome any questions regarding pain control methods and options as we continually strive to keep our patients comfortable and happy.



Client Testimonial

“I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate the team at Summer Street Animal Clinic. When my Chihuahua puppy, Chloe, was ready to be spayed she was very tiny and I was concerned she would not handle the surgery very well. The staff was very reassuring and comforting. The day Chloe went in for surgery the staff checked in with me throughout the procedure to let me know exactly how Chloe was doing. Chloe did very well. Her recovery time was very short. It took only a couple of days for her to be back to her normal playful self. The surgery procedure was done in the morning which meant Chloe was back home within 24 hours. I would like to thank the veterinarians and staff for the excellent job they did. Thank you for the compassion shown toward the animals and their families.”

The Harris Family

