



## *Speying your cat*

### **The operation:**

Typically we recommend desexing at 6 months of age but it can be done at any stage. Surgeries are done on week-days and animals can usually go home after 3pm. No food is to be given on the morning of the surgery. Admission time is between 8am and 8:30am – please allow 5-10minutes as you will be asked to sign a surgical consent form.

### **Standard protocol:**

On admission your cat will receive a pre-op check and pre-med injection. This makes them relaxed and reduces the dose of anaesthetic required. Animals over the age of 7 receive a pre-anaesthetic blood screen to ensure overall good health and good organ function. If you would like your younger cat to receive this precautionary measure, please request a pre-anaesthetic screen on admission. Next the cats are placed on intravenous fluids. This is standard practice as it significantly increases the safety of the procedure. Anaesthesia always carries some risk, but with careful protocols these risks can be minimized.

### **General anaesthesia:**

The anaesthetic is given via the IV drip and the cats are connected to a gaseous anaesthetic machine. Anaesthesia given this way gives us the greatest control, again minimizing risk. We use isoflurane because of its very high safety levels. Next the monitoring equipment is attached – we use heart rate monitors, oxygen saturation monitors and respiratory monitors on all patients. We frequently measure blood pressure throughout the procedure. Your pet will be constantly monitored by our highly experienced and trained staff.

### **Further precautions:**

A very strict protocol is followed for all our desexings to minimize potential infection. All surgeries are performed in our operating theatre using sterile packs, drapes, gowns, gloves, hats and masks. Patients are placed on a heat pad during surgery, and recover in a heated cage- maintaining body temperature again helps to reduce anaesthetic risk.

### **The procedure:**

Speying involves removing the uterus and ovaries through an abdominal incision. Stitches tend to be intradermal and dissolvable therefore not requiring a revisit to remove any sutures. A minimum of 5 days worth of pain relief is also given to all patients as standard practice.

*Please note many of the procedures mentioned above are not standardly done at other vet hospitals. It is our philosophy to operate to a high standard, ensuring patients the best possible care.*





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### **In brief:**

- All animals undergoing general anaesthesia are placed on an IV drip
- All animals over the age of 7 as advised to receive a pre-anaesthetic blood screen
- Anaesthetic agents with high safety margins are used.
- All desexings are performed under sterile conditions
- Monitoring equipment is used to measure heart rate, oxygen levels, respiration and blood pressure.
- Heated operating tables and recovery cages are used
- Our staff are highly trained and experienced
- Pain relief is given to all patients



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