



Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic ABN 34 007 931 875

140 Swanport road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

Phone: (08) 8532 2333 ALL HOURS

Fax: (08) 8531 0303 Email: [mbvet@lm.net.au](mailto:mbvet@lm.net.au) [www.murraybridgevet.com.au](http://www.murraybridgevet.com.au)

## **DESEXING YOUR PET**

Desexing or neutering your pet is a big decision to make, it is a significant surgical procedure that requires a high level of care and skill. For most pets this will be the most significant surgical procedure they will have. There are many reasons for desexing pets the most common being unwanted pregnancies but there are also several serious medical conditions associated with the reproductive organs that can be avoided with desexing.

### **WHEN CAN MY PET BE DESEXED?**

We recommend anytime from 6 months of age.

### **HOW LONG WILL MY PET NEED TO BE IN HOSPITAL?**

In most cases your pet will only be in hospital for the day.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AT HOSPITAL?**

**Admission** – you will need to bring your pet in for surgery at 8.00am and we will need approximately 10 mins to complete the admission forms. The surgeon will discuss the procedure with you and give your pet a pre-anaesthesia examination. At this time you can ask any questions you may have, and request any additional procedures such as micro chipping.

**Care and Attention** – When you have left our nursing team will settle your pet into their new environment which includes a heat mat and warm fluffy bedding made of material designed to keep your pet warm and dry during their stay.

**Blood Tests** – a blood test may need to be performed to check vital organ functions, the surgeon will discuss this with you during admission or before the surgery day as sometimes the blood test may be done prior to admission.

**Pre-Medication** – is given to minimise stress and settles your pet prior to the anaesthetic.

**Intravenous Catheter** – a catheter is placed into the vein to provide access to your pet's circulatory system. This enables us to easily administer intravenous fluids, anaesthetic, and pain relief throughout the procedure for your animal's safety and comfort.

**Pain Relief** – to ensure your pet is as comfortable as possible we will administer pain relief prior to surgery and again whilst they are waking from the procedure. Careful monitoring by our qualified nurses ensures that your pet will receive the appropriate level of pain relief during and after surgery.

**Instruments, Gowns and Surgical Area** – prior to all surgery all instruments are sterilised. Surgery is performed in the sterile surgery area. Surgery staff wear gloves, hats and masks to maintain a high level of sterility and minimise chances of infection.

**Intubation** – we use an intravenous induction agent to make your pet go to sleep and then a tube is inserted into the airway and gas is used to maintain anaesthesia.

**Theatre** – your pet is placed on a heated surgical table in our sterile operating theatre during the operation.

**Monitoring Care** – respiratory rate, heart rate, blood pressure and blood oxygen levels are all monitored during the anaesthetic to make the procedure safer for your pet.

**Nursing Team** – in addition to our hospital nurses your pet will have a dedicated trained surgery nurse assisting the veterinarian throughout the procedure and providing a high level of patient care.

**Fluid Therapy** – intravenous fluids are administered through the catheter during your pet's surgery. They greatly improve the recovery of your pet from the anaesthetic.

**Procedure** – the surgeon will make a small incision and remove part of your pet's reproductive system. Once this has been done, they will carefully suture the area with intradermal sutures which are internal and will dissolve so there is no need for an extra visit for removal.

**Care and Recovery** – your pet will be moved from the surgery area to the main hospital area and a hospital nurse will closely monitor your pet's recovery. It is very important that your pet is kept warm and monitored during the initial stages of recovery and we will use heating pads to keep them comfortable.

**Discharge from Hospital** – when you come to collect your pet one of our hospital nurses will go through all the information about keeping your pet comfortable and caring for them at home. This will take approximately 10 minutes. Your pet will be provided with an Elizabethan collar to prevent them licking the wound, this helps to prevent any complications with the wound such as infection.

**4 Day Revisit** – at the time of discharge your nurse will also make an appointment for a revisit after 4 days. This is so we can check the suture area and the general recovery of your pet. It provides an opportunity for you to ask any questions about your pet's recovery and this visit is included in the cost of the desexing.

**Choosing surgery for your pet is an important decision. Understanding the level of care provided during surgery by our hospital and surgery teams means you can be confident we will provide the highest quality veterinary care for your pet.**