



Desexing

Desexing provides important health benefits and is the only effective permanent method for preventing pregnancy in animals.

Desexing surgery, or 'neutering', involves the removal of the testicles of males, known as 'castration', or the ovaries and uterus of females, known as ovariectomy or 'spaying'.

Your pet will be desexed under general anaesthesia which will be closely monitored throughout the procedure to ensure the safety of your pet. As most animals undergoing desexing are young and healthy, complications are rare and recovery usually rapid.

Meeting your pet's needs

Your veterinarian and their nurses are the trusted professionals to meet your pet's needs. They will ensure that your pet remains comfortable and well cared for during their procedure.

We trust the information contained will help you work with them to understand the benefits and achieve the best outcome following your pet's desexing surgery.



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Anaesthetics

Anaesthetics allow veterinarians to perform surgical procedures safely and with minimal discomfort. Your vet develops an anaesthetic plan tailored to your pet's needs, based on its age and physical condition. In this way your vet makes desexing as gentle, safe and comfortable as possible for your pet.

NSAIDs

Your veterinarian may prescribe a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug, or NSAID, at desexing to help manage any discomfort from the procedure. NSAIDs are medications that help to reduce inflammation and swelling, and minimise pain by inhibiting two different areas involved in pain perception. Please use as directed by your veterinarian and contact the clinic if you have any concerns.

Your desexing appointment time is:



& Your Pet



Benefits of Desexing

There are important benefits associated with having your pet desexed.

Health Benefits

- ✓ Reduction in risk of some malignant cancers, in organs such as the testes, ovaries, cervix, or uterus.
- ✓ Prevention of infection of the uterus, or pyometra, which is where the uterus fills with pus, common in older entire female dogs.
- ✓ Prevention of 'false pregnancy syndrome' in undesexed female dogs.
- ✓ Reduction in risk of some serious diseases, such as prostatic infection and perineal hernia, in male dogs that haven't been castrated.



Social Benefits

- ✓ Reduction in territorial behaviours such as urine marking.
- ✓ Reduction in noisy calling behaviours.
- ✓ Reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ Reduction in wandering which can lead to your pet being lost, injuring themselves in an accident or provide an opportunity to harm native wildlife.

Financial Benefits

- ✓ Prevention of costs associated with assistance at birthing.
- ✓ Avoidance of costs associated with the serious medical diseases listed above.
- ✓ Desexing your pet also entitles you to a discount on your council pet registration fees for the life of your animal.

The Desexing Procedure

Pre-anaesthetic examination - Your veterinarian or veterinary nurse will examine your pet to ensure they are well for their anaesthetic.

Pre-medication - Your veterinarian will administer medication which provides pain relief for your pet's surgery and reduces anxiety associated with being in hospital.

Anaesthetic - A general anaesthetic is important for surgical procedures to be completed safely on animals and to eliminate any perception of pain.

Surgical preparation - Prior to surgery the hair is clipped off at the surgical site and the skin is cleaned until sterile.

Surgical procedure - In the case of male animals both testicles are removed via a skin incision. In female animals an incision is made through the skin and muscle of the belly. The reproductive organs are removed through this incision, which is then surgically closed.

Additional procedures - It can be convenient while your pet is anaesthetised to complete other procedures on your pet which may be required. These may include:

- Repair of umbilical hernias
- Removal of 'baby' or deciduous teeth
- Microchipping

Recovery - Your pet will continue to be monitored throughout the recovery process.

Home Care - Generally pets make a speedy recovery after routine surgery. At discharge of your pet, a veterinarian or veterinary nurse will provide instructions on caring for your pet after the surgery.



Common Misconceptions

✗ **It's better to have my pet the way nature intended.**

✓ Sexual hormones create behaviours in our pets that may be socially unacceptable, such as mating, urine marking and roaming. These are natural behaviours of entire animals and desexing may suppress their desire for these behaviours.

✗ **My pet will gain weight after desexing.**

✓ Animals that are not desexed may have slightly higher nutritional requirements than animals that are desexed. Managing their weight by feeding an appropriate amount for your pet, combined with appropriate exercise, will stop you pet from becoming overweight.

✗ **It doesn't matter when I get my pet desexed.**

✓ Many of the benefits to desexing are maximised when performed at certain ages. Your veterinarian will factor in general desexing advice, breed-related considerations, and your pet's individual circumstances to provide the best advice for you.

✗ **Desexing will be too painful for my pet.**

✓ Animals experience minimal discomfort undergoing a desexing procedure. This is because medications for anaesthesia and to control pain are used throughout the surgery. Additional pain relief will be provided afterwards when required.

