

Neuter/Castration



LITTLE CREEK
VETERINARY CLINIC

WHAT THE PROCEDURE INVOLVES:

Complete surgical removal of both testicles under general anesthesia (GA).

WHY NEUTER MY PET?

PREVENTION OF PROSTATITIS – The prostate gland of non-neutered, sexually mature males enlarges significantly as they age. This is directly linked to the production of testosterone by the testicles. It can cause discomfort, inflammation and infection.

PREVENTING TUMORS/HERNIAS – The risk of certain types of tumors of the testicles or anus is greatly reduced by neutering your pet. Perineal hernias are almost exclusively associated with intact male dogs.

BEHAVIOURAL EFFECTS – Inappropriate mounting, roaming, urine marking (of territory) and certain types of aggression are reduced or completely eliminated in 50-60 % of male dogs after neutering.

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS (DURING SURGERY AND/OR RECOVERY)

- Hemorrhage (excessive bleeding)
- Dehiscence (sutures coming undone)
- Swelling/inflammation at the incision site
- Seroma (pocket of fluid)
- Infection

*If your pet has only one testicle descended at the time of surgery, a second incision will need to be made in the abdomen. Potential complications associated with this procedure include trauma to the ureter (urinary tube from kidney to bladder) and testicular remnant (piece of testicle left behind).

POTENTIAL ANESTHETIC COMPLICATIONS

- Airway irritation
- Low blood pressure
- Hypothermia/hyperthermia
- Cardiovascular collapse
- Respiratory depression
- Gastric reflux
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Hypoxic brain damage
- Embolism
- Death

POST-OP PAIN CONTROL

The majority of veterinarians will use an NSAID (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) medication such as Metacam/meloxicam during your pet's recovery. This drug will typically also be sent home with you for after surgery care. The advantage of an NSAID is that it treats both pain and inflammation. However, it should not be given to animals with the following, as it can worsen these conditions:

- Underlying liver or kidney disease
- Gastro-intestinal issues (vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia)

While most young pets have no underlying issues, blood work may detect elevated kidney or liver values that would alter our decision to use an NSAID. For this reason, it is recommended to have bloodwork run prior to surgery. Other drugs that might be used in place of an NSAID include opiates and gabapentin.

RECOVERY TIME

Your pet will be monitored closely during surgery and recovery from anesthesia. Typically, pets go home the same day of surgery. Your pet will go home with instructions for at home care and exercise restriction.