

Pain management –

Any surgical procedure is painful for your pet, but today there are several outstanding medications available to manage pain. Our veterinarians will assess your pet's needs in order to minimize any discomfort.

Your hospitalized pet –

We know your pet will be more comfortable and at ease at home with you. We strive to keep the length of hospital stays as brief as possible. Your veterinarian will determine what is best for your pet based on the procedure and your pet's post surgery recovery.

While in the hospital, your pet will rest comfortably in our hospital ward. A veterinary nurse is assigned to monitor your pet's condition and provide loving care.

Health insurance for your pet –

Pet insurance is health insurance for your cat or dog. Pet insurance can pay a large part of your veterinary bills when your pet gets sick or injured. Some plans have optional wellness choices that will also pay for vaccinations and to have your pet spayed or neutered. Pet insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions, so it is best to enroll while your pet is young and healthy.

Several plans are available. To learn more about which company and plan are right for you and your pet, visit: www.PetInsuranceReview.com.



Spaying & Neutering

Important Questions & Answers



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Spaying or neutering your pet is an important part of pet ownership and an important choice to keep your pet happy and healthy.



Each year millions of pets are euthanized due to over population in shelters – too many pets and not enough homes!

The veterinarians at **Cascade Summit Animal Hospital** believe that spaying or neutering your pet is one of the most important pet health choices you can make for your pet and your community.

What are the benefits of spaying or neutering your pet?

Research has shown that altered pets have a longer life expectancy than pets that have not been spayed or neutered.

Female pets altered before their first heat cycle have a significantly reduced chance of developing breast, uterine and ovarian cancer. In addition, spayed pets can't develop *pyometra* (an infection of the uterus) that can result in death.

Male pets altered before they become sexually mature can prevent Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). They are less aggressive and less likely to exhibit unwanted behaviors, such as spraying, inappropriate elimination and mounting. In addition, they will have less desire to roam the neighborhood. This often results in fights and bite wounds that require veterinary care. Even more traumatic is the anguish of your family pet being hit by a car.

When should my pet be altered?

We recommend all pets be altered around six months of age – before they become sexually mature.

Are the anesthesia and surgery safe?

Spaying is considered major surgery because the incision is made through the abdomen. Neutering is considered minor surgery, however, both are done under anesthesia. While there is always an inherent risk with any anesthesia, we use a safe protocol for all surgery patients. Your pet's vital signs are closely and constantly monitored during surgery. After surgery, our nursing staff will observe your pet until he/she is fully awake, safe and comfortable.

We perform a pre-surgery blood screen.

This is important because it allows us to determine your pet's kidney and liver function prior to undergoing anesthesia. The liver and kidneys are the organs that break down the anesthetic drug and remove it from the body. Knowing, rather than assuming, their ability to process the anesthesia is an added safety benefit for your pet.