



Frequently Asked Questions and Eligibility Requirements

What animals are eligible for spay or neuter surgery?

- Healthy adult cats and dogs under the age of 7
- Kittens that are at least 4 months old (>1kg) and puppies that are at least 10 weeks old (>2.25kg).
- Female cats in heat.
- Healthy pregnant cats

Note: For the health of your pet, we strongly recommend that he/she is vaccinated at least two weeks prior to surgery. These vaccines can be administered by your local veterinarian or you can request an appointment with the Toronto Humane Society's [vaccination services](#). Our policy requires all animals to be vaccinated prior to leaving the clinic if not currently up to date. Vaccines will be administered and a vaccination fee will be added to your surgery bill in the event your animal is not up to date by the time of surgery.

While we do not offer this service, pre-anesthetic bloodwork is always recommended before any surgical procedure for animals of all ages. Please contact your veterinarian if you wish to have this completed as we do not offer this service via our clinic.

For additional information please feel free to contact us via email or call: 416-392-2273 x2

What animals are **NOT** eligible for spay and neuter surgery?

- Animals not born in Canada, or those who have travelled outside of the country within the last year.
- Unhealthy or contagious cats and dogs.
- Animals that have received medications within the last two weeks (excluding anti-parasitic medications). If your pet is on a long-term medication please check with us to see if you can be accommodated.
- **Very overweight or underweight cats and dogs. (Body condition scores: 1/9 – 3/9 or 8/9 - 9/9)**
Unsure if your animal is at an ideal body weight? Take a look at these helpful resources:
Dogs: <http://www.purina.co.uk/content/your-dog/helping-to-keep-your-dog-healthy/managing-your-dog's-weight/purina-dog-body-condition-tool>
Cats: <http://www.purina.co.uk/content/your-cat/helping-to-keep-your-cat-healthy/managing-your-cat's-weight/purina-body-condition-tool>
- Nursing cats and dogs.
- Pregnant dogs, or those in currently in heat (or had a heat within the last 6-8 weeks)
- Large breed female dogs weighing over 40kg
- Sighthounds (Deerhounds, Wolfhounds, Greyhounds, Italian Greyhounds, etc.)
- Any “teacup” breeds or dogs under 2.25 kg.
- Large, deep-chested dogs: Great Danes (both adults and puppies)
- Animals under six (6) months with retained testicles. *Animals over 6 months with testicles undescended will be done at the discretion of the attending veterinarian if the testicle is palpable at the time of surgery, and a \$20 fee will be applied*
- Animals seven years of age and older

- Short-faced (brachycephalic) dog breeds such as: English Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pekingese, Pugs. Short-faced cat breeds such as: Persian cats, Himalayan cats . Please note that any brachycephalic (short nosed/“smushed” faced) animals that are not on this list will have surgery at the attending veterinarian’s discretion. We might request photos of your animals be sent to spayneuter@torontohumanesociety.com to confirm your pets eligibility.

For more detailed information on why these animals are not able to access our services please click [here](#).

What animals have a caution prior to surgery?

- **Animals with neurological conditions.** Please ensure to notify us at the time of booking if your pet has a neurological condition.
- **Standard Poodles, Weimaraners, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Dobermans.** Due to the risk of gastric dilation volvulus we recommend owners of these breeds discuss the option of gastropexy with your private practice veterinarian.
- **Dobermans** will require a **Von Willebrands test** prior to surgery. If your dog is **part Doberman** we strongly recommend you **discuss the risk of Von Willebrands disease** with your veterinarian. Should your animal **present physically as primarily Doberman** it will be at the discretion of our veterinarians to request testing prior to being accepted for surgery.
- Some **Shar-peis, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Shih Tzus, and Boxers,** may present as **more brachycephalic than others.** Should we determine they are brachycephalic they will be denied for surgery.
- **Animals with severely poor dental health.** While also painful and uncomfortable, poor dental health can have a negative effect on your pet’s organ functions and health.
Unsure if your animal has dental disease? Take a look at these helpful articles:
<http://www.veterinarypartner.com/Content.plx?P=SRC&S=1&SourceID=13>
<http://www.petdental.ca/en-ca/dental-care-faqs.html>
- **FIV and feline leukemia positive animals must be in good health and not experiencing any other illnesses.** Caregivers are also recommended to seek vaccination service with their own veterinarian who can provide killed vaccines. The Toronto Humane Society’s Vaccination Service uses modified live vaccines that can in theory initiate a low level of infection or illicit no immune response from felines affected with these viruses.

All surgeries are at the discretion of the veterinarian the morning of surgery. Should they determine for any reason during the pre-surgical examination that your animal is unfit for surgery, the veterinarian reserves the right to deny the patient. As all of our patients receive a pre-surgical examination to ensure they are healthy enough to undergo the procedure, a \$25.00 examination fee will be applied if your animal is denied.

If I have more than one pet, do I need to submit more than one application form?

Each pet requires its own application, which will remain part of its medical record.

How does spaying or neutering my cat prevent reproduction?

In **female** cats and dogs, the uterus and ovaries are removed through a small incision in the abdominal wall. After the surgery, females will be unable to get pregnant and will not go through heat cycles.

In **male** cats and dogs, the testicles are removed but the scrotum remains. Removal of the testicles prevents production of sperm resulting in a male that cannot produce young.

Will my cat be unable to reproduce immediately after surgery?

Female cats and dogs will be unable to reproduce as soon as the surgery is complete. They will have no reproductive organs remaining.

Male cats and dogs will have their testicles removed but there will be sperm and testosterone in their systems for up to three weeks post-surgery.

What are the benefits of spaying or neutering my pets?

- It **reduces or removes the risk of disease, infection and cancer** of the pet's reproductive system i.e. mammary cancer, prostate cancer, uterus infection (pyometra).
- **Female heat cycles are eliminated.**
- Male cats may **no longer spray or smell**, male dogs may **urine mark less frequently** on walks.
- It **ends the cat's crying, howling, fighting and frantic efforts to get out**, and may **decrease** a dog's **urge to run away** in search of opportunity to mate.
- Spaying and neutering can **make your pet more laid back and affectionate** by decreasing hormonally related aggression issues.
- Spayed and neutered pets have been proven to **live longer lives**. Male neutered cats for example live 62% longer than unneutered toms.
- It **reduces pet overpopulation** and the thousands of homeless and unwanted animals that end up in rescue organizations & shelters each year.