



## Why was my Animal Denied?

Animals may be denied for surgery or other procedures for a variety of reasons, all in regards to your pet's safety, or the safety of other animals in our care. Due to the nature of high volume service we must ensure that all animals undergoing procedures are healthy, and have no issues or characteristics that could lead to an increased risk for surgical or anesthetic complication.

Should your animal be denied there may be steps you can take that will allow them to access our services at a later date. In some circumstances you may have to take your animal to a private practice veterinarian to provide them with the care they need.

Please see below for common reasons for denial and next steps on your part, if required:

### **Brachycephalic**

Brachycephalic animals have a shortened head when compared to other breeds, they are often described as having a 'smushed' face. Due to the physical characteristics of their airway, these animals pose a higher than average anesthetic risk. Because of the increased risk, we cannot admit brachycephalic animals for surgery through our high-volume service.

If your animal is one of the breeds listed below, is mixed with one of the breeds below, or has brachycephalic characteristics they may be denied for surgery. You must pursue surgical options via a private practice veterinarian.

Brachycephalic animals can still utilize our Vaccination Services.

- i. Pug
- ii. Boston Terrier
- iii. Bulldog
- iv. French Bulldog
- v. Pekingnese
- vi. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- vii. Brussels Griffon
- viii. Lhasa Apso
- ix. Himalayan
- x. Persian

## **Deep Chested**

Great Danes are not eligible for surgery due to their deep chests. These animals are high risk for bloat (gastric dilatation and volvulus syndrome). This often fatal condition can be surgically prevented at the time of sterilization. Please discuss the gastropexy procedure with your veterinarian.

While not denied for surgery, we urge clients with the following breeds to discuss gastropexy with their private practice veterinarian prior to booking surgery: Weimaraners, Standard Poodles, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Dobermans.

## **Poor Dental Health**

Your animal may be denied for surgery if they have dental disease. While primarily affecting the mouth, dental disease that has been present for an extended period of time may also affect other organs and systems in the body, potentially making the animal a higher surgical risk.

## **Animals Recently Outside of Canada/Sick Animals**

Animals that were recently outside of the country may have been exposed to pathogens that can be transferred to other patients in our care. For their protection we cannot provide services for animals that have left Canada within the last year. You will be able to book an appointment for our services after one year has elapsed. If you cannot wait this long you must have the procedure performed at a private practice veterinarian.

Similarly, sick animals can pass on their illness to other animals in our care. In addition to the potential spread of illness through the clinic, sick animals are not ideal surgical candidates as surgical complication rates increase when an animal is not healthy. Until your animal is well you will not be able to access our services. If treatment is needed you must see a private practice veterinarian.

## **Animals Receiving Medication**

Some medications can increase the chance of a surgical complication. If your animal is currently, or was recently, receiving a medication that could increase the risk of surgery they will be denied. You will be able to access our services once your animal has finished their course of treatment. If your pet does not have a communicable illness and just requires a vaccination you may be accommodated depending on what medication is currently being administered.

## **Underweight/Overweight Animals**

Animals with a poor body condition have a higher surgical risk than animals with an optimal body condition. Additionally, overweight animals may require much longer surgery times due to their physical characteristics. If your animal is considerably over or underweight you will be denied for surgery until their body condition improves.

If underweight you may need to see a private practice veterinarian to determine why. If your animal is overweight you may need to consider a change of diet, a change in amount fed, or an increase in activity levels in order to achieve a more optimal body condition score prior to accessing surgical services.

Animals in good health, other than their weight, can still access our Vaccination Services.

### **Reproductive Status**

Female animals that are currently nursing a litter will be denied for surgery. The young animals should not be separated from their mother for the length of time needed for the surgical procedure if still nursing. Additionally, the engorged mammary glands may make the spay procedure more time consuming. If your animal was denied because they are currently nursing you may rebook once the litter has been weaned.

Dogs that are currently in heat will be denied for surgery. When an animal is in heat blood flow to the uterus is higher than normal and can increase the time needed to undergo the surgical procedure. If your animal is denied because they are currently in heat you may rebook in six to eight weeks.

Dogs that are pregnant will be denied for surgery. You may rebook the surgery once the litter of puppies has been born and subsequently weaned. If you are not able to take on the care of the puppies, please contact our [Intake Department](#) in order to evaluate other options for their care.

### **Size**

Female dogs over 40kgs will be denied for surgery. Due to their large size the length of the surgical procedure will be longer than average, and therefore not suitable for our services.

Adult canines under 2.25kg (Teacup breeds) will also be denied services. Very small animals are more likely to become hypothermic and/or hypoglycemic when undergoing a surgical procedure and are therefore not suitable for our services.

### **Age**

Animals over the age of seven years will be denied for surgery. At seven years of age these animals are now considered to be seniors, and with age comes the increased likelihood for emerging diseases/ conditions. These animals should have pre-anesthetic bloodwork completed and increased anesthetic support during surgery that cannot be offered in our high volume service.

Kittens under the age of four months (or weighing less than 1kg) will be denied for surgery. Puppies under the age of ten weeks (or weighing less than 2.25kg) will be denied for surgery. As with teacup breeds, very young animals require more surgical support than can be offered through our services.

### **Sighthounds**

Due to their blood chemistry sighthounds may be at an increased anesthetic risk and are therefore unable to be accommodated through our surgical services. These dogs can still access our vaccination clinic.