

# Neutering

You should plan on having your pet spayed (female) or castrated (male) at 5 to 6 months of age. There are several medical and behavioral advantages to neutering, in addition to helping control the pet overpopulation problem. Millions of cats and dogs are euthanized each year simply because there are not enough homes for them. Please be a responsible pet owner and have your pet neutered.

## Pre-Surgical Instructions

Our goal is to keep you informed about what to expect during your pets hospital stay for surgery. Although anesthesia is not entirely risk-free, pre-anesthetic diagnostics, surgical monitoring, and specific anesthetic protocols all help to ensure your pets safety. For this reason we strongly recommend pre-anesthetic blood work. This blood work alerts us to any potential health issues which may compromise your pets safety while under anesthesia. If your pet is over 8 years of age or is suspected to have any underlying medical concerns then blood work will be required prior to anesthesia.

### *An overview of your pets surgery day:*

Please have your pet here between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and remember no food after midnight but water is fine. Prior to surgery an examination is performed and a blood sample is taken for testing if so indicated. If no abnormalities which may complicate the surgical procedure are found, your pet is given a pre-op injection to lightly sedate and allow us to use less general anesthetic. An IV catheter may be placed if indicated and in most cases an IV anesthetic is administered. An endotracheal tube is placed in the trachea to administer inhalant anesthetic. Your pet is then connected to an anesthesia machine and heart and respiratory monitors (such as an EKG and pulseoximeter). The procedure is performed as we continue to closely monitor vital signs. Once the procedure is finished your pet is placed in a warm recovery area for continued monitoring until sent home safely to you. Please feel free to call at anytime if you have any concerns.