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## Not All Spays and Neuters Are Equal

***Questions that you can ask to find out what type of spay or neuter surgery your pet is going to receive.***

We understand that cost is often a factor in choosing your pet's health care. We want you to understand the factors that go into determining the cost of our surgical procedures. Here at **Liberty Veterinary Medical Center** we do everything we can do to minimize every pet's stress and discomfort by using the **safest** procedures possible.

Surgical practices and procedures can vary widely among veterinary facilities. This list of questions is designed to help you acquire information on how the procedure that your pet needs will be performed. Once armed with the answers you'll be able to compare one veterinary hospital's standard of care and prices with another.

We invite you to compare our standards to any veterinary facility. Once you evaluate the level of care your pet will receive at **Liberty Veterinary Medical Center** we believe your decision will be clear.

***\*\*\*At Liberty Veterinary Medical Center the answer to all of the following questions is, "YES"\*\*\****

### **1.) Will my pet have preoperative lab work?**

In addition to a preoperative physical exam performed by your pet's veterinarian, blood-work will be performed in advance of the surgery date in order to assess key indicators of internal health such as liver enzymes, kidney enzymes, indicators of anemia, infection and inflammation. This step, while not able to test for every possible disease, is a key part of assessing patient health and reveal any medical conditions that might need to be addressed prior to undergoing anesthesia.

### **2.) Will my pet receive intravenous fluids while under anesthesia?**

Intravenous (IV) fluids are very important in maintaining hydration during the procedure. They help sustain a safe blood pressure while under anesthesia which protects vital organs. Kidney damage caused by episodes of low blood pressure while under anesthesia may not show up for years! The IV line also allows emergency venous access in the event an emergency situation.

### **3.) Will my pet be monitored during and after anesthesia?**

Your pet's primary care veterinarian will be assisted by a trained veterinary nurse whose sole task during and after the procedure is to monitor your patient during recovery.

### **4.) Will my pet receive pain medication?**

In a state of the art, modernized veterinary hospital, pain medication should be the rule, not an option, for any surgical procedure. Those hospitals that follow high standards of care pre-medicate their surgical patients with pain killers even before they are put under anesthesia. This assures that the pain medication is working by the time the surgery starts. They also continue pain medications as needed while the pet is in the hospital and dispense pain medications to be used once the patient is home.





**5.) Will my pet receive a balanced anesthesia protocol, be intubated, and breathe 100% oxygen while under anesthesia?**

Often a pet parent's main concern about a procedure is the anesthesia itself. Balanced anesthesia allows veterinarians to minimize patient risk and maximize patient comfort and safety. The objectives of balanced anesthesia are to calm the patient, minimize pain, and reduce the potential for adverse effects associated with analgesic (pain medications) and anesthetic agents. Pets who receive a sedative and a pain killer even before they are put under anesthesia have less chance of complications during surgery. Pets who feel pain need more anesthesia and higher doses of anesthesia carry higher risk to the patient. Pets undergoing any type of surgery should be intubated (a tube is placed inside their airway after they are asleep). This allows them to breathe 100% oxygen and anesthetic gases during their procedure, and also gives us the ability to control their breathing. The endotracheal tube prevents aspiration in case they vomit and makes it possible to breathe for the pet in emergency situations.

**6.) Will my pet's body temperature be maintained in a safe manner while he or she is under anesthesia?**

Patients start to lose heat from their body as soon as they are put under anesthesia. This is called hypothermia and can be life threatening. The smaller the pet, the faster this occurs. Hypothermic pets recover slower and have more complications from anesthesia than those who are kept warm. At our hospital, your pet's body temperature is maintained by using external sources of heat while they are under anesthesia, and during recovery. There are many methods used to keep pets warm while they are under anesthesia. Some depend on sophisticated equipment such as water-circulating heating pads, human forced air heaters and computer regulated heating pads. These types are safe in that they do not burn the patient.

**7.) Will the surgery be done in a surgical suite?**

Sterility (aseptic technique as practiced in human surgery) is very important during surgery. Having a special room, a surgical suite that is only used for aseptic surgery is a must. It can be kept much cleaner than a general purpose room that has high traffic. Pets whose surgery is done in a surgical suite have a reduced chance of developing a life threatening postoperative infection. Our hospital is equipped with areas for prepping the patient (clipping hair and cleaning the area) that are separate from the actual surgical suite. Personnel entering the surgery suite are required to wear protective clothing such as a cap, mask, shoe covers, etc.

**8.) Will a separate surgical pack and surgical drape that have been sterilized by autoclaving, as well as individually packaged, sterile suture material be used on every patient?**

Modern standards of care say that every patient must have their own surgical pack, that this pack must be autoclaved to achieve sterility and that a new surgical drape is used on every pet. In addition, every pack of suture is new, within its expiration date, and appropriate for the individual patient and procedure being performed.

**9.) Will the surgeon wear a sterile cap, surgical gown, gloves and mask?**

Those veterinarians who adhere to high standards use a different sterile gown and gloves for every patient and wear a cap and mask during every surgery.

**10.) Will specialized equipment such as pulse oximeter, EKG monitors and blood pressure monitors be utilized?**

Anesthesia should be monitored closely at all times to ensure an animal's safety and well-being. Quality instruments, such as those mentioned above, aid our staff and veterinarians in detecting changes in a patient's vital signs early and allow them to make adjustments as needed to ensure a safe, smooth anesthesia.

