



## **SURGERY FAQ:**

**Q: Is it ok for my dog to have water after midnight?**

A: Yes, small amounts of water are ok before surgery.

**Q: Why do I have to withhold food after midnight?**

A: For the procedure we want your pet to have an empty stomach as sometimes anesthesia can make your pet nauseous. Pets that have not been fasted have a higher risk of aspiration pneumonia (food getting into your pet's lungs causing severe infection).

**Q: Should I give my pet his/her meds the morning of surgery?**

A: Yes. If the medication needs to be given with food please use as small amount of food as possible. Be sure to list all medications given within the last 3 days (prescription and OTC) on the surgery sheet.

**Q: Why does my pet need take home pain meds after surgery?**

A: The injectable pain medications administered after surgery only last up to 24 hours. Pets will be painful at the surgery site for several days after surgery, even though most will not show any signs of pain.

**Q: What is a Neuter/Castration?**

A: An incision is made near the very sensitive scrotum and the testicles and part of the spermatic cord are surgically removed. This is a much more invasive surgery than a vasectomy in humans, where the testicles are not removed.

**Q: What is a Spay/Ovariohysterectomy?**

A: This is a major abdominal surgery where the ovaries and uterus (almost the entire female reproductive tract) are removed. Recovery from this surgery is similar to a human female recovering from a C-Section or any abdominal surgery with a large incision through the muscles and soft tissue of the abdomen. Recovery in the several days after surgery without pain medication is unnecessarily painful.

**Q: How do I know my pet is in pain?**

A: Unlike many people think, animals almost never whine or cry out when they are in pain. The signs of pain in an animal are very subtle and difficult to pick up on. Post-operative pain can delay healing. We know all pets are in pain after these procedures for several days and recommend that pain meds are given as directed for the well-being of your pet.