



Animal Care League Spay/Neuter Clinic

Important info—please read before booking

Pre-Surgery Instructions

- Food: For all pets over 4 months of age, please withhold all food after midnight (12 AM) the night before surgery. You may leave water out for them until morning.
- Bathing/Grooming: We recommend you bathe or groom your pet before a surgical visit, as we will request that you do not bathe or groom them for 14 days after their surgery, to keep their incision site safe.
- Medication: If your pet is currently taking medications (other than the typical flea/tick and heartworm prevention) please provide a full list of these medications, including eye, ear, or skin medications so that we can determine if your pet is an appropriate candidate for surgery with Animal Care League protocols. Some medications can interact with other medications or drugs that we use.
- Vaccinations: We do require all pets to be vaccinated for rabies and distemper to receive surgery, in accordance with local ordinances and state law. If your pet does not have a current rabies or distemper vaccination, they can receive it on the day of surgery. If they have been previously vaccinated, please bring a copy of proof of vaccination with you on the morning of surgery.
 - Vaccine costs: rabies - \$20, distemper - \$15
 - **We must have a copy of the actual rabies certificate and cannot accept a rabies tag as proof.**
 - Although we do offer vaccinations on the same day as surgery, we highly recommend that your pet be vaccinated at least two weeks before surgery for DAPPv-L4 (distemper-parvo combo) and Bordetella for all dogs and FVRCP (distemper, upper respiratory) for cats. While no vaccine is 100% effective, vaccination will lessen the chance of your pet contracting disease, as well as decrease the severity of the disease if your pet does contract it. You may visit our clinic to have your pet vaccinated before surgery by calling us to make an appointment.

Post-Surgery Instructions

- Food and water: The evening you bring your pet home from surgery, offer half of their normal amount of food and water upon arrival. So long as no problems occur, they can resume eating normal-sized meals the next morning. Any lethargy, refusal to eat, diarrhea, or vomiting beyond 24 hours is not normal.

- Pain Medications: All dogs will go home with prescription pain medication. Be sure to follow all instructions outlined on the container. Be careful not to over-administer medication. Cats receive a long lasting, 24-hour pain injection.
- Environment: Your pet has undergone major surgery. Be sure to keep him/her quiet and in an indoor area for the next 12 hours. Keep your pet calm, warm, and comfortable.
- Activity: Do not allow your pet to run, jump, play, swim, or bathe for the next 14 days. Dogs should receive short, leashed walks only. All pets should be kept warm, clean, and dry. Avoid any strenuous activities.
- Keep males and females apart.
- If your pet was in heat at the time of surgery, keep all male pets away for a minimum of 2 weeks. If a male pet was to try and mate with the recovering female it could be life-threatening to the female. If you had a male pet neutered they can still get an unsprayed female pregnant up to 45 days after their surgery. Keep all pets in heat away from the male.
- Incision: Be sure to check your pet's area of incision twice daily to ensure that it is healing. Redness and swelling near the incision should be minimal. We recommend that every pet wear an E-Collar to prevent licking and chewing. We carry E-Collars for purchase. You'll notice that your pet received a small green tattoo near their incision. The tattoo lets other veterinarians know that they have been fixed, should your pet get lost. Also, the sutures your pet received are absorbable, unless otherwise stated by your technician at pick-up. Do NOT administer any human products, herbs, or supplements by mouth, or apply ointments/sprays of any kind to the incision.

No Show Policy

When scheduling a spay or neuter appointment with Animal Care League, it is important to be aware of our non-refundable deposit policy.

If you need to reschedule, be sure to give at least 72 hours' notice via phone, voicemail, or email to keep your deposit valid. If you cancel or reschedule within 72 hours, your deposit will be forfeited and treated as a donation. Similarly, if you're late to your appointment, Animal Care League may turn your pet away, and your deposit will also be donated.

To ensure the best outcome, please follow all pre-surgery instructions, which will be emailed to you. This includes ensuring your pet is not fed after midnight the night before surgery and that they haven't taken any medication in the two weeks leading up to the appointment.

If your pet is too stressed, aggressive, or has certain medical conditions (like a heart murmur or prior reaction to anesthesia), they may not be eligible for surgery, and your deposit may be forfeited. If you do not bring all scheduled pets to your appointment, the deposit for any missing pets will also be forfeited.

Deposits are valid for one year from the date placed and are non-transferable. If you forfeit your deposit, a new one will be required to reschedule.

By placing a deposit, you acknowledge that you understand and agree to all terms and accept responsibility for adhering to these guidelines to ensure the success of your pet's surgery.