



DESEXING

Why it's right for your pet

Why Do Veterinarians recommend desexing?

- Desexing prevents the destruction of thousands of unwanted kittens and puppies who end up on the streets, in shelters and rescue facilities. There are also important medical and behavioural benefits for your pet.
- Desexing prevents unwanted pregnancies.
- Castration helps to control male dominance aggression problems and sexually motivated wandering.
- Tomcats have a tendency to roam and fight with other cats which can lead to cat bite abscesses and the spread of or contracting FIVE (Feline immuno-deficiency virus).
- Spaying reduces the risk of mammary tumours, tumours of the ovaries, uterus and cervix, and pyometra (pus filled infected uterus – a potentially life-threatening condition requiring an emergency spay to treat).

Desexing may also be recommended for your pet to prevent hereditary diseases being passed on, or for treatment of diseases such as an enlarged prostate.

When can your pet be desexed?

Whilst pets can be desexed as early as 8 weeks of age, we recommend desexing most pets between 4 and 6 months of age. We also generally recommend, unless necessary for medical reasons, not to desex a female pet whilst they are in heat, as the nature of being in season makes the surgery potentially more complicated and subsequently more expensive, as does desexing mature animals.

There is no benefit for your pet to have a season or litter before being desexed. In fact, this can increase the risk of some medical conditions.

About the desexing procedure

Desexing is a significant surgical procedure that requires a high level of care and skill. For most pets that live a healthy and event free life, desexing will be the most significant surgical procedure they will have. Your pet will be admitted into the clinic first thing in the morning. We will spend a few minutes checking details and asking questions about your pet. The surgical veterinarian and veterinary nurse will then perform a physical examination, and in some case pre-anaesthetic tests. A pre-medication will be administered to help your pet relax and provide pain-relief. An IV catheter will be placed in a leg for



Desexing helps reduce the euthanasia of unwanted animals

medications and IV fluids to be administered. An injectable drug will be given to make your pet go to sleep. Dogs and female cats will then be intubated to deliver oxygen and anaesthetic to keep your pet asleep, unaware and pain-free for the procedure. The nurse will clip the surgical site, and prepare your pet for surgery. Your pet will be taken into the theatre for the sterile surgery. A qualified, skilled, experienced nurse will monitor your pet for the entire procedure.

Female cats and dogs have what is called an ovario-hysterectomy (spey) – both ovaries and the uterus are removed. This is a major surgical procedure. There will be an incision in their belly and sutures. Male cats and dogs have an orchiectomy (castration or neuter). Both testes are removed. Male dogs will have sutures, but in most cases male cats will not.

Your pet will remain in the clinic until we are happy that they can go home, usually the afternoon of the surgery. They will be discharged by a nurse who will explain the care they will need. There will be pain relief medication for you to give for at least three days, and we will schedule post-operative checks for three and 10 days for those patients with sutures or any special requirements.

How to organise your pet's desexing procedure

Please contact us or visit us in the clinic to schedule a time for your pet's procedure. We can answer any questions you may have, and also provide information about the price of the procedure - this depends on the species, age, sex and size of your pet. If your pet is female, we may also ask you specific questions about her heat or oestrus cycle.

The night before...

We will give you information on what you need to do to prepare your pet for their surgery. Most animals will need to be fasted. Feed them an evening meal then no food after about 10pm the night prior to their surgery. They should still have access to drinking water.

Did you know...?

- Two unfixed cats and their offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in 7 years.
- One female cat can have 29 litters in 10 years.
- One male cat can sire 2,500 kittens in a single year!
- Desexing helps reduce roaming and fighting behaviours.
- An unspeyed female dog, her mate, and all of their puppies, if none were ever desexed, could produce 515 puppies in 3 years and 67,000 puppies in 6 years!
- Desexing eliminates or reduces the risk of some serious medical conditions and diseases.

Desexed animals
generally live longer
and healthier lives

