

Community and Shelter Medicine

Pre-Operative Instructions



Your pet will be spayed (females) or neutered (males) under general anesthesia. While this is a routine procedure, it should not be taken lightly and we ask that you read and understand the instructions listed below. This will help to ensure your pet has a safe and smooth experience with us.

Preparing your animal for surgery:

- All animals should have free access to water up until surgery
- Animals over 5 months of age should not eat after midnight the evening before surgery; Animals under 5 months of age can have a small meal the morning of surgery
- If your pet (over 5mo old) does eat, please inform us at drop off (this is for your pet's safety)
- You must purchase an Elizabethan collar (lampshade collar) for all dogs and cats. Plan ahead as pet stores are often sold out.

Drop off:

- You must arrive at your appointment on time (8:30am). Pets arriving late will not be accepted
- Expect to stay for one hour (8:30am – 9:30am). You will be outdoors during this period of time so please dress accordingly
- Cats must arrive in a secure cat carrier. If you use a soft carrier, make sure all zippers work.
- Dogs must arrive on a leash and we ask that you stay separated from cats awaiting surgery.

Vaccination and Tattoo policy:

- Your pet will receive a Rabies and a Distemper vaccine
- Under state law a veterinarian must vaccinate your pet against rabies unless you are able to provide a current and valid rabies certificate. Rabies tags and invoices will not be accepted as proof of rabies vaccination status.
- A small tattoo will be applied near the incision of each animal. This tattoo is a visual indicator of the sterilization status of your pet, thus preventing unnecessary surgery later in life.

Dogs in heat:

- Dogs will not be spayed while in heat (this includes a few days before and after your dog is actively bleeding)
- This policy is for the safety of your dog, as these surgeries are more prone to complications during and after surgery

Please call 877-590-7729, or email spaywaggin@arlboston.org if you have any questions or concerns prior to surgery.

Please call the Spay Waggin' helpline at (857) 350-8723 if you have questions or concerns after surgery.

The Spay Waggin' is funded entirely by donations. Please consider donating to the Spay Waggin' so that we may be able to continue to offer this important service to others.