

# Cat Spey: Admission



Between 8-8.30am on the morning of surgery your pet will be admitted to the hospital by one of our surgery nurses.

She will go through the admission paper work with you, treatment plan and discuss pre-anaesthetic blood testing or any questions or concerns you have before the procedure.

We will make sure that we have contact phone numbers for you so that we can call you during or after the procedure with any updates.



# Pre-op check

Once admitted your cat will be given a pre-anaesthetic examination by our qualified nursing staff. They will check your cat's body weight and assess heart rate and rhythm, gum colour and temperature to ensure that they are fit and well enough to under-go their procedure. If your vet has recommended pre-anaesthetic blood testing, this is also carried out at this stage in our in-house laboratory, so results are in front of your vet within 30 minutes.

Your pet is then given a pre-medication injection to provide light sedation, reduce anxiety and provide pre-surgery pain relief.



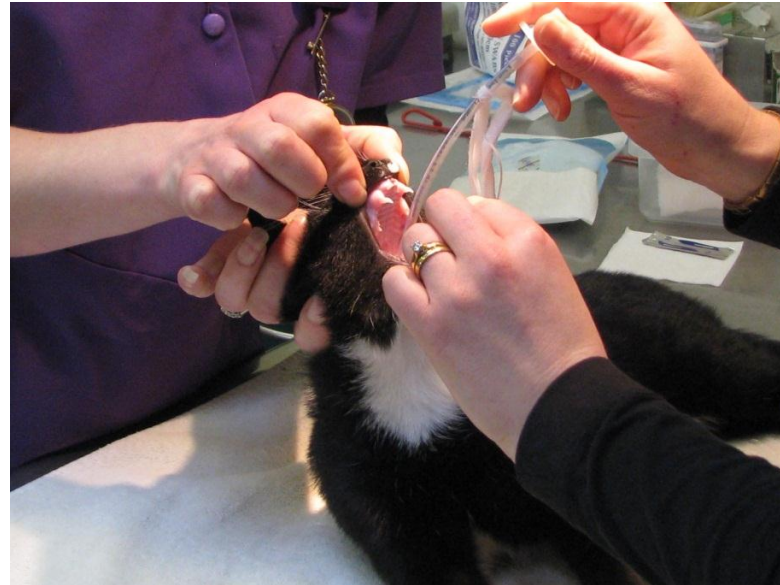
Nurses  
checking heart  
rate



Waiting for surgery

# Anaesthetic

Your vet will then proceed with inducing anaesthesia, which involves an injection of anaesthetic in the vein, usually on the front leg, followed by insertion of an endotracheal (ET) tube into the windpipe; this allows maintenance of isoflurane gas anaesthetic. At The Vet Centre anaesthetic safety during surgery is our main priority, so we use the safest anaesthesia protocols for your cat based on their breed, age and health.



The anaesthetic injection is given & then the ET tube is inserted

During the surgery your pet is connected to medical equipment that constantly monitors heart and breathing rates to ensure the safest anaesthetic possible. Your pet will have a fully qualified veterinary nurse monitoring them during the entire procedure and into recovery until they go home.



Monitoring the anaesthetic

# Surgery Preparation

Once your pet has reached a stable level of anaesthesia they are moved into our sterile surgical theatre where they are prepared for surgery – the skin on the flank has been clipped (shaved) by this stage and it is then cleaned with chlorhexidine and alcohol to ensure sterility.



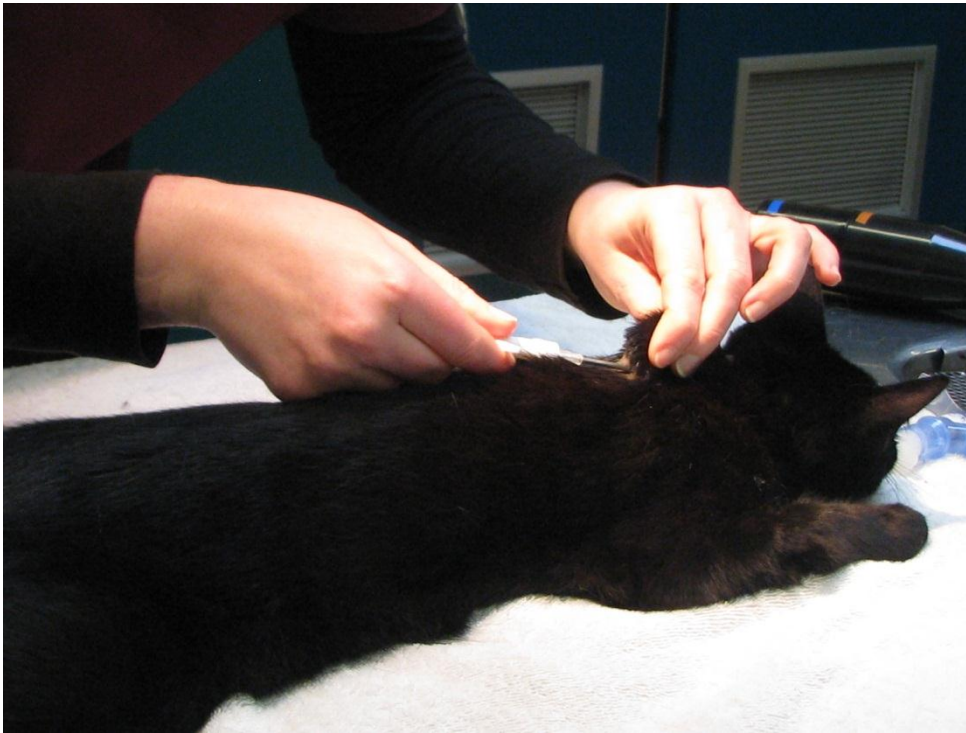
Nurse clipping the skin on her flank for surgery



Scrubbing the skin prior to surgery

# Micro chipping

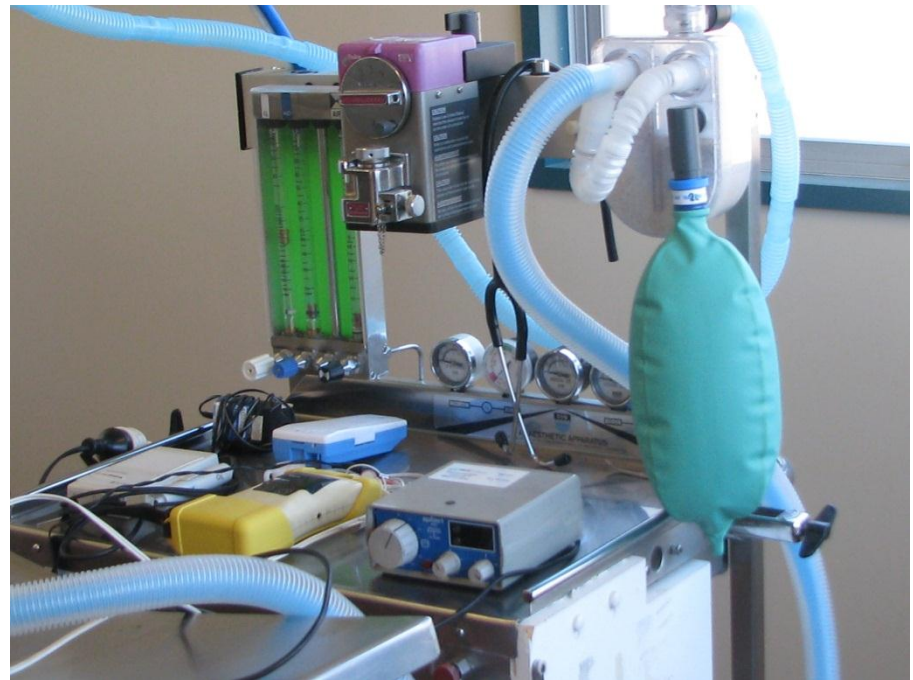
We can also insert a microchip under the skin over the shoulder area while your cat is under anaesthesia; this is a permanent way of identifying them as your cat in the unfortunate event of them becoming lost or injured. This is a simple, pain free procedure while they are already asleep for speying, and is highly recommended for young cats.



Microchip being inserted under skin



We have a purpose built modern, sterile surgical theatre complete with blood pressure monitors, heart rate and breathing monitors to ensure the safest anaesthetic possible.



Anaesthetic machine  
and monitors

Surgical theatre



# Surgery

Surgery is carried out in aseptic conditions similar to that experienced in private human hospitals, with your veterinarian in sterile gown, hat/mask and gloves during the procedure. Anyone entering the theatre is required to wear appropriate protective mask and hat to ensure sterile conditions are maintained.



Vet scrubbing and gowning for surgery



Your vet will then open their sterile surgical pack and drapes and start the ovariohysterectomy surgery.

This involves making an incision into the abdomen and removing the ovaries and uterus, so that your pet will not be able to come into season again or fall pregnant. This is essentially a similar surgery to that carried out in women, except we remove the ovaries as well as the uterus.



Vet opening sterile surgical kit



Making an incision in the skin to start the spay surgery

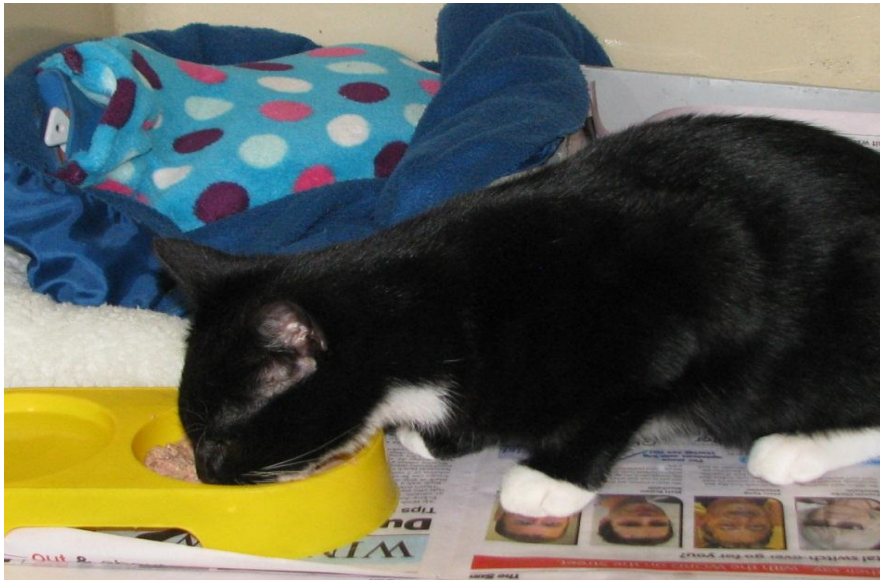
# Post-op

After your vet has completed the procedure and has closed the abdomen, subcutaneous tissue and skin with three layers of sutures your pet will then go into our recovery room. At this stage the ET tube is removed once they are awake enough to swallow, and their dedicated vet nurse will continue to be with them and ensure that they are kept warm (blankets, heat pads and hot water bottles are used) and comfortable in recovery. An additional long acting pain relief injection is given at this stage.



Recovery room with nurse monitoring patient while she wakes up

Once in recovery one of our nurses will phone you and let you know how the surgery went and give you an update on how your pet is doing.



When your pet is feeling more wide awake we transfer them to our warm comfortable cat ward. They are offered water and some tasty food before settling down for the afternoon.

# Discharge

At discharge your nurse will go through written discharge instructions on how to care for your pet at home and also book them in for any post-operative rechecks and suture removal appointments that they need.

Sutures are normally removed 14 days after surgery.

Your pet may need to go home with an Elizabethan collar to prevent them pulling their sutures out.

We have a wide range of sizes available and will demonstrate how to use them.



Spey stitches on the flank

