

Dog Castration: 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 dog will be given a pre-anaesthetic examination by our qualified nursing staff. They will check your dog'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.



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

Anaesthetic

Your vet will then proceed with inducing anaesthesia, which involves an injection of an anaesthetic into the leg vein, 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 dog based on their breed, age and health.



Vet administering the anaesthetic injection into the leg vein



Dog connected up to the anaesthetic machine and monitoring equipment

Microchipping

Insertion of a microchip under the skin over the shoulder area can be carried out at this stage if it has not already been done.

This is a simple pain free procedure that is easily done when the dog is already asleep for castration.



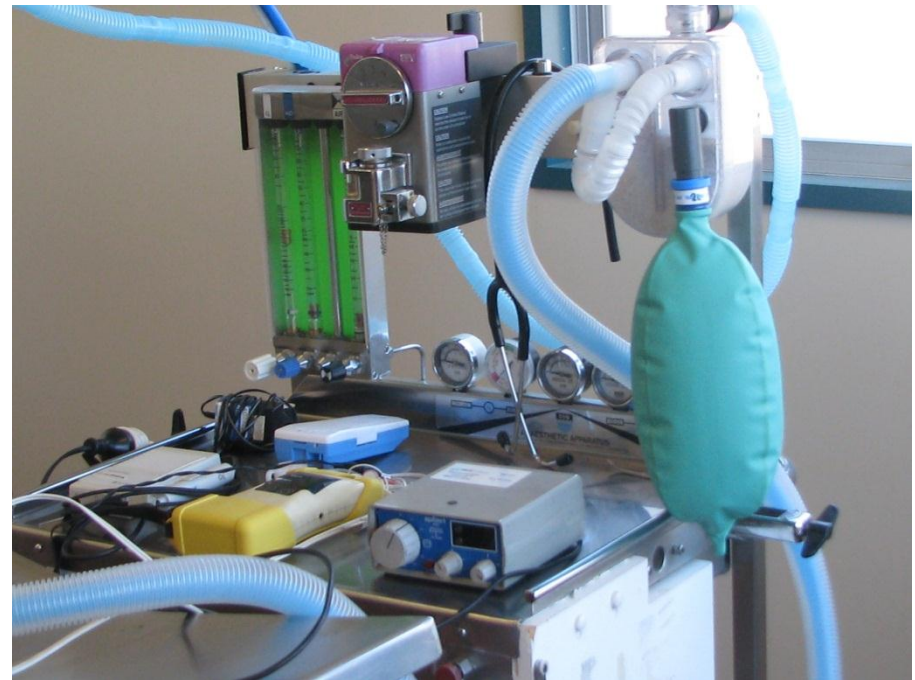
The skin is clipped and cleaned prior to microchip insertion



The microchip is injected under the skin at the back of the shoulder area

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.

Your pet will have a fully qualified veterinary nurse monitoring them during the entire procedure and into recovery until they go home.



*Anaesthetic machine
and monitors*

Surgical theatre

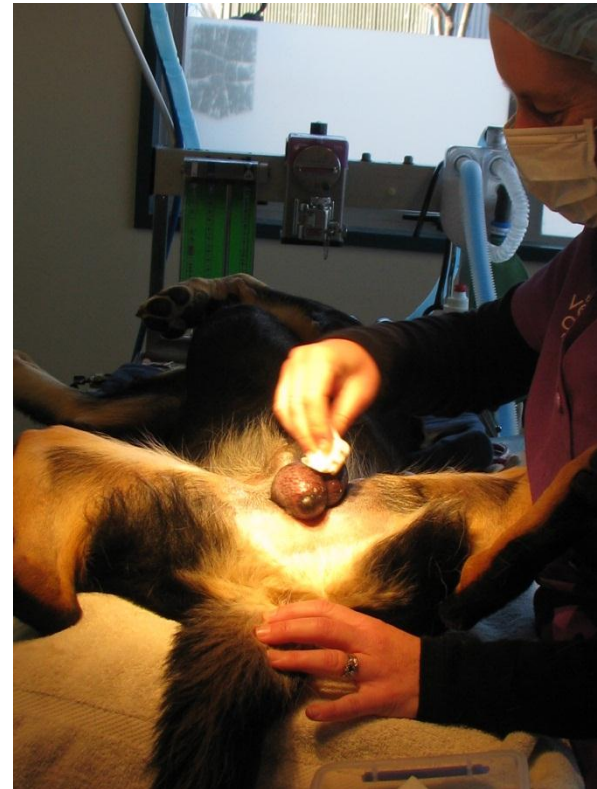


Surgery Preparation

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 scrotum and prepuce has been clipped (shaved) by this stage and it is then scrubbed (cleaned) with chlorhexidine and alcohol to ensure sterility.



*Nurse clipping scrotal skin
for surgery*



Scrubbing the skin

Surgery

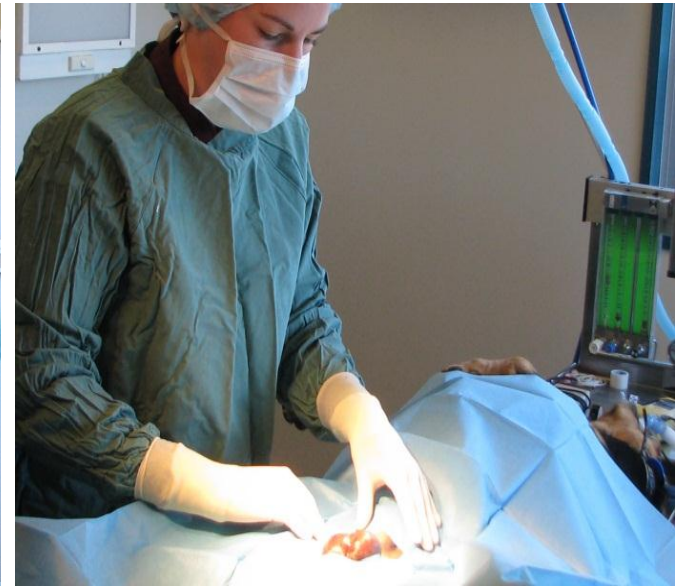
Surgery is carried out in aseptic conditions similar to that experienced in private human hospitals, with your veterinarian in sterile gown, hat/mask and gloves during the procedure. Anyone entering the theatre is required to wear appropriate protective mask and hat to ensure sterile conditions are maintained.



Vet scrubbing for surgery



Opening up the sterile surgical pack



Placing the sterile drape over the scrotum

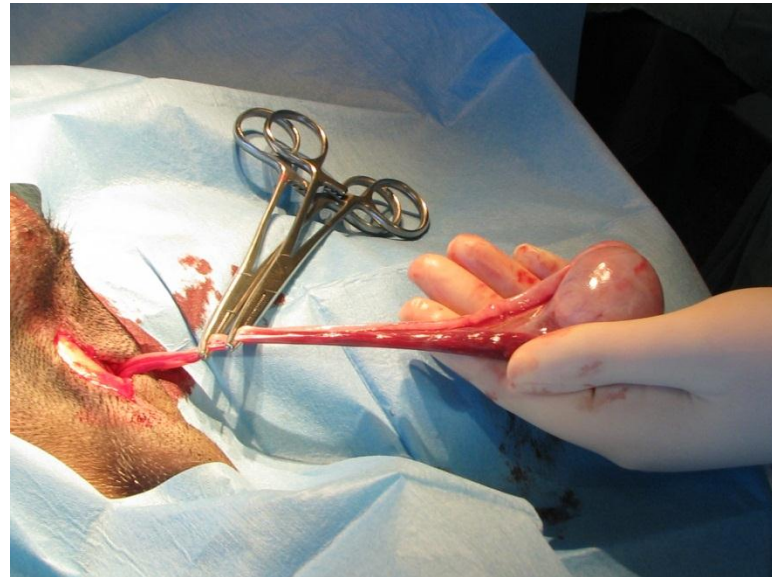
Once the vet has opened their sterile surgical pack and placed the surgical drape over the scrotum, they will start the castration surgery.

This involves making an incision into the skin just in front of the scrotum, the testicles are then each gently manipulated out of the same skin incision for removal and ligation of the blood vessels.

After surgery your dog will not be able to mate and have puppies with a bitch. They will also have no possibility of developing testicular cancer and a reduced chance of developing prostatic cancer or prostate disease. Problems with wandering and dog aggression will also be greatly reduced.



Vet making a skin incision in front of the scrotum



Clamping and ligation of the spermatic cord and blood vessels

Post-op

After your vet has completed the procedure and has closed the subcutaneous tissue and skin with two 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.



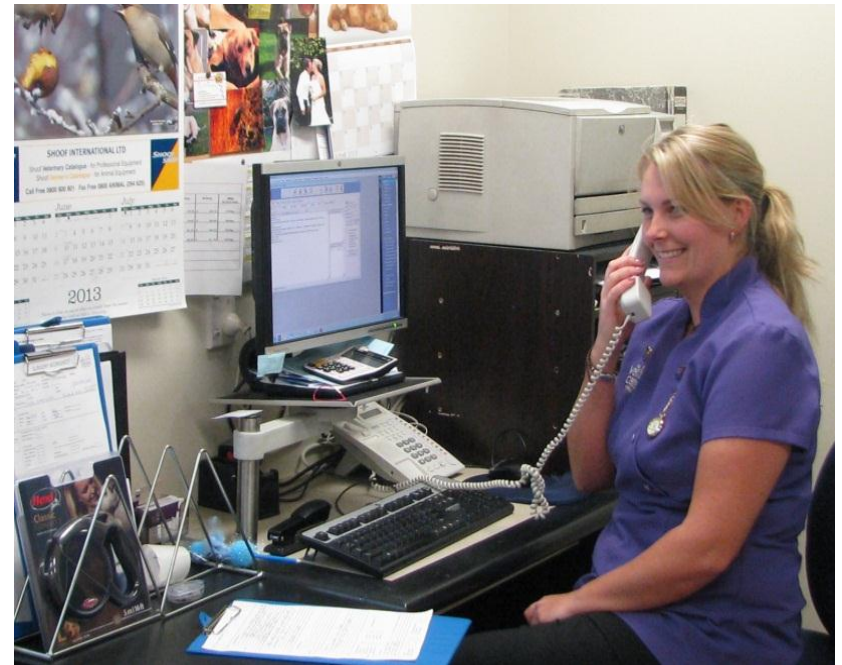
Post-op appearance of the empty scrotum and sutures



Recovery room with nurse monitoring patient while he 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.

Once your pet is feeling more wide awake we take them out for a short toilet walk and then transfer them to our warm comfortable dog ward.



They are offered water and some tasty food before settling them in for the afternoon.

You can collect them from the clinic around 3pm or later the same day.

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.



E. Collar



Pain relief tablets