

Bitch 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 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.



Nurses checking heart rate

Anaesthetic

Once she is nice and relaxed, your dog will then be set up on intravenous fluids (a drip) to ensure that her blood pressure is maintained during surgery and to allow easy administration of drugs during the procedure.



Vet administering the anaesthetic injection into drip line

Your vet will then continue with inducing anaesthesia, which involves insertion of an endotracheal tube (ET) into the trachea (windpipe); this allows maintenance of the 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.



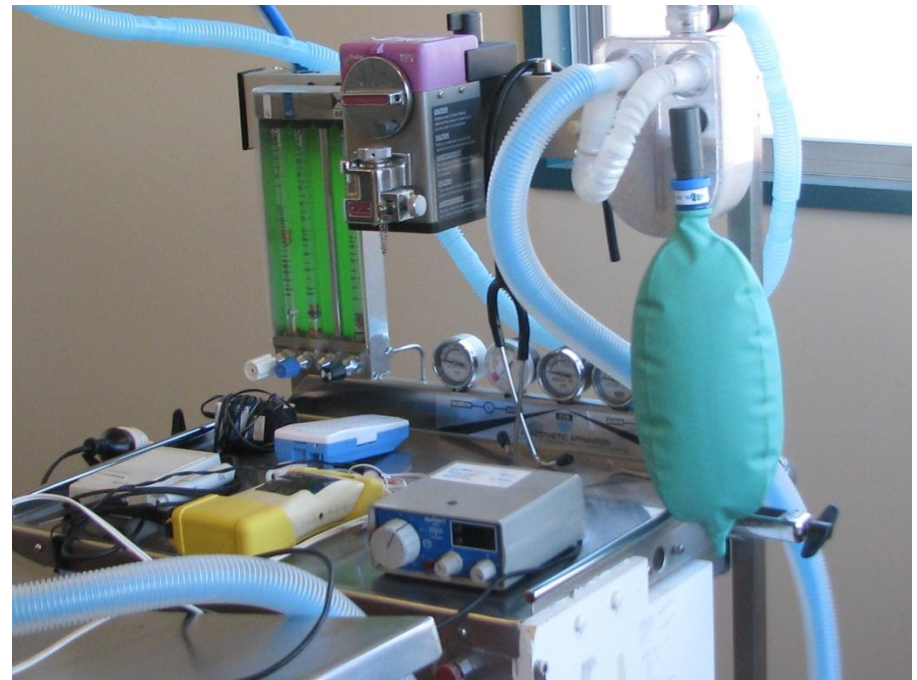
Vet placing the ET tube into the trachea



Connected up to the anaesthetic machine and monitoring equipment

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.



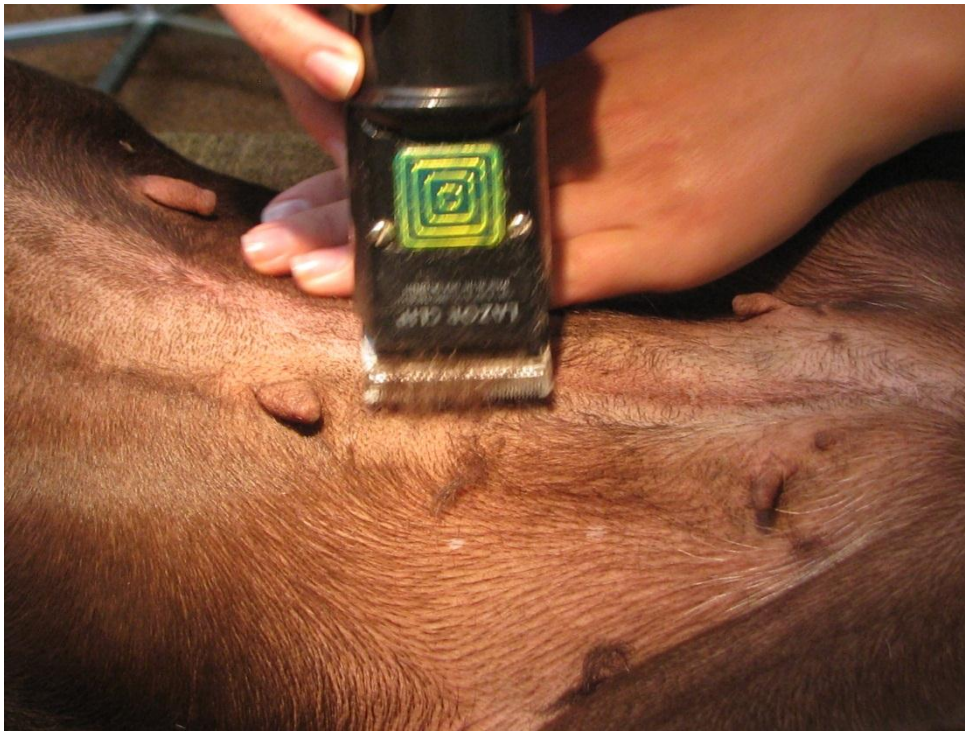
Anaesthetic machine
and monitors

Surgical theatre

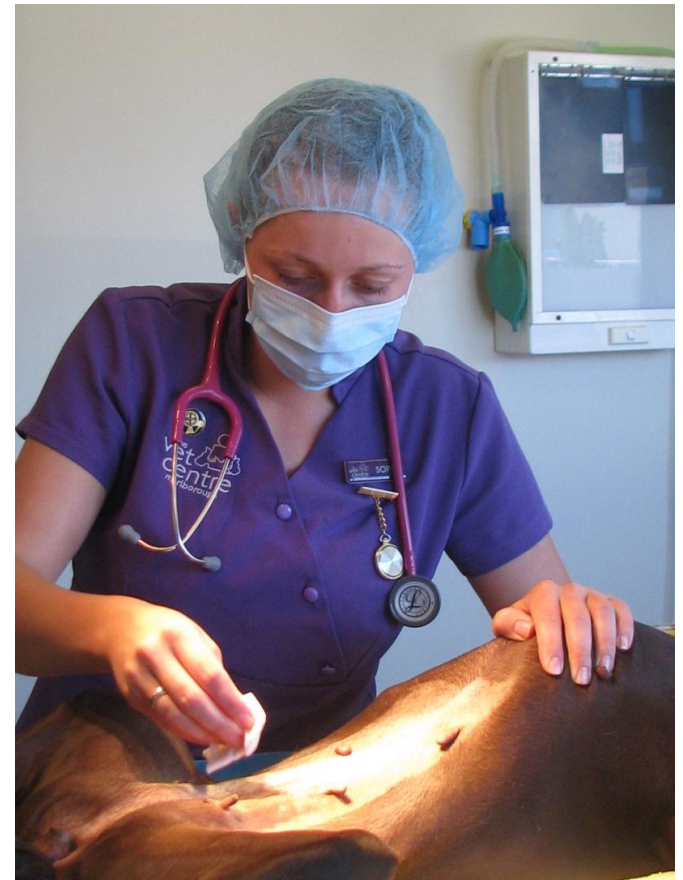


Surgery Preparation

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



Nurse clipping the abdomen 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 and gowning for surgery

Your vet will then open their sterile surgical pack and drapes and start the ovariohysterectomy (spey) 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).



Sterile instruments



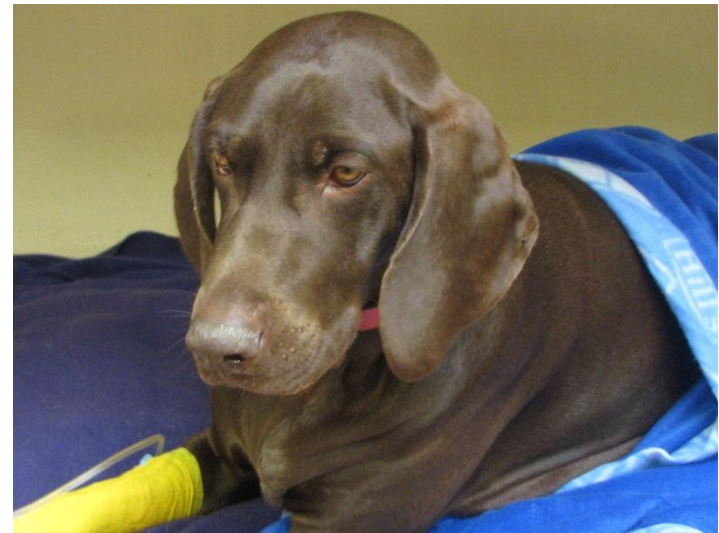
Vet making a skin incision to start the spey surgery

Post-op

After your vet has completed the spay procedure your pet will then be transferred 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 and the drip is continued for the afternoon.



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 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 dinner before settling them in for the night. Most dogs are still quite sleepy at this stage and just have a nice quiet sleep in the clinic overnight.

We like to keep them for one night in the hospital to ensure that they are comfortable and fully recovered from the effects of the anaesthetic before going home. Some dogs require an extra pain relief injection in the evening to ensure comfort.



Discharge

The next morning after going for a toilet walk and having breakfast we start them on oral pain relief tablets (of which you will be given a course to continue at home). You will be able to collect your dog after 9.30am.

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 usually removed 14 days after surgery.

Your pet may need to go home with an Elizabethan collar (E. 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