

Guinea Pig Castration: Admission



Between 8-8.30am on the morning of surgery your guinea pig 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 any questions or concerns you have before the procedure.

Please bring in some food from home (pellets and/or green food) so that we can encourage your guinea pig to start eating as soon as they have recovered from the anaesthesia.



We will also 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 guinea pig will be given a pre-anaesthetic examination by our qualified nursing staff. They will check your pet'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.



*Nurse
checking his
body weight*

Anaesthetic

Your pet is then placed into an anaesthetic box where they breathe in a combination of oxygen and an anaesthetic gas called isoflurane. After a few minutes when they are feeling very sleepy, they are transferred to the surgery table and a special tiny anaesthetic mask is placed over their face to keep them anaesthetised.



*Stage 1:
The anaesthetic box*



*Stage 2:
The anaesthetic mask*

At The Vet Centre anaesthetic safety during surgery is our main priority, so we use the safest anaesthesia protocols for your pet based on their breed, age and health.



Nurse monitoring the anaesthetic and ensuring the guinea pig is nice and warm during the procedure

Guinea pigs are more sensitive under anaesthesia than cats and dogs, and they can become hypothermic (cold) – so we used heat pads, hot water bottles, and bubble wrap to keep them warm during the surgery. Monitoring of breathing and heart rate is carried out throughout the surgery.

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

Surgery Preparation

Once your pet has reached a stable level of anaesthesia, they are then prepared for surgery – the skin over the scrotum will be clipped (shaved) and it is cleaned with chlorhexidine and to ensure sterility.



Carefully clipping the skin on his scrotum for surgery

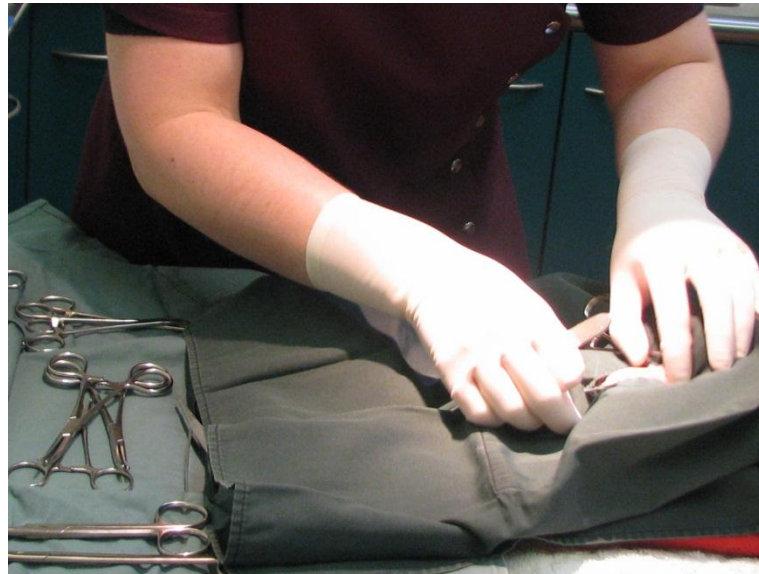
Surgery

Surgery is carried out in aseptic conditions with your vet scrubbing their hands with chlorhexidine soap and wearing a hat/mask and sterile gloves during the procedure.



Vet scrubbing for surgery

Your guinea pig's scrotum is covered with a sterile surgical drape and a sterile surgical kit is opened especially for their surgery, to ensure that they don't develop an infection following the procedure.



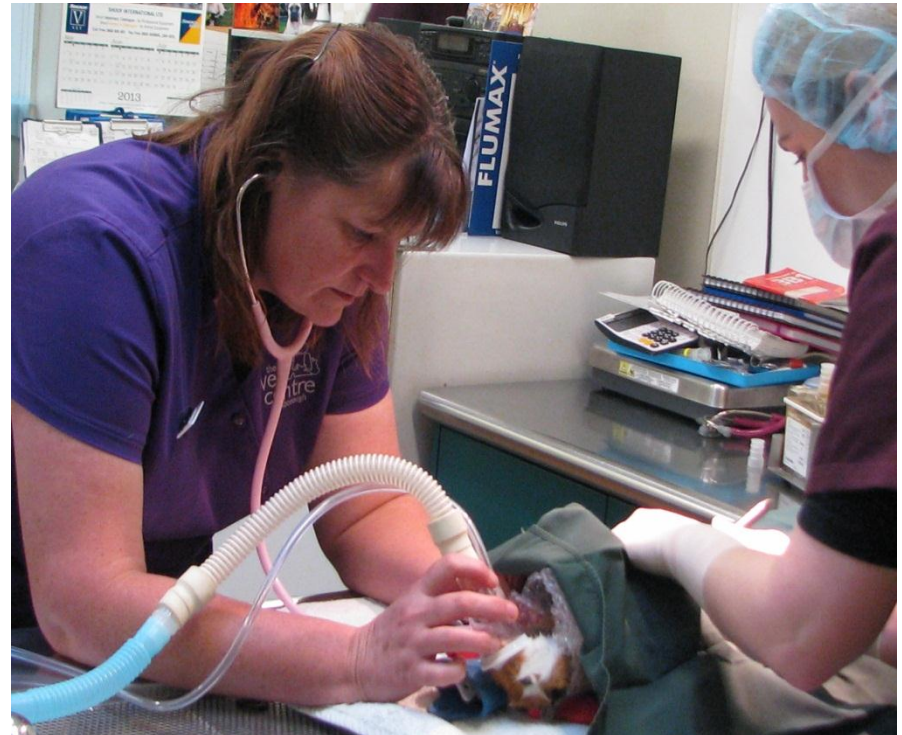
Opening up the sterile surgical pack and arranging the surgical drape over the scrotum

The castration surgery involves making an incision in the skin over each testicle and removing the testicle by ligating the blood vessels.

The muscle layer/tunica and then the skin is closed with 2 layers of sutures.



Vet making skin incision over testicle



Nurse monitoring patient during surgery

After your vet has completed the procedure, they will administer a long acting pain relief injection, to keep them comfortable when they wake up.

They are then transferred into a recovery cage. 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.



How the scrotum appears after castration with sutures in skin



Pain relief injection given after surgery

Post-op

As it is important for guinea pigs to start eating following an anaesthetic so we feed them small amounts of pureed apple via a syringe and once they are up and about, they are offered the food you brought from home.



Guinea pig in recovery area

Discharge

When 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.



Tiny Elizabethan collars are available for patients who chew their sutures!



At discharge your nurse will go through written discharge instructions on how to care for your pet at home and also book him in for suture removal, usually 14 days after surgery.