

Catawba Animal Clinic  
2241 India Hook Road      Rock Hill, SC 29732

## SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET

*IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!*

We recommend that your pet be spayed or neutered at approximately six months of age. Please call us a week or so ahead of time so that we can schedule a surgery day and time that is convenient for you.

When you arrive for your pet's surgery you will be greeted by one of our receptionists. A veterinary technician will be paged; they will escort you and your pet into an exam room to discuss surgery and surgery options. The technician will answer any questions that you might have. The options they will discuss include Peri-Operative Fluids, Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screen, and the Microchip. The Peri-Operative Fluids help maintain blood pressure and oxygen perfusion; assist the body in processing anesthetic medicines more efficiently, and the IV catheter provides immediate vein access to give medications in case of emergencies. The Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile evaluates those organ systems most directly affecting the safety of anesthesia and tests for anemia and dehydration. The Microchip Identification is a permanent identification that can assist in the recovery of a lost or stolen pet.

When your pet is admitted, he or she will be settled into our surgery suite where he/she will await surgery. Once your pet is anesthetized he/she will be placed on a Heart/Oxygen monitor and will be closely monitored by a surgery technician. Your pet will then be prepped for surgery, moved to our surgery suite and placed on heat therapy. The surgeon will perform the scheduled surgery and once the procedure is complete your pet will be moved to recovery. In recovery, your pet is monitored by a recovery technician; heat therapy and pain medication is provided and monitoring continues until your pet reaches the level of alertness appropriate for his/her breed and surgical procedure. When your pet reaches this level of alertness, he/she is placed in a monitored recovery area, with ongoing heat therapy, until he/she is fully recovered.

When your pet is ready to be discharged, a discharge nurse will greet you and explain all discharge instructions and medications and answer any questions you may have at that time.

- Spaying and Neutering at an early age virtually eliminates the possibility of breast and prostate cancer.
- Spaying and Neutering completely eliminates the possibility of ovarian, uterine or testicular cancer. It also eliminates the possibility of Pyometra (infected uterus).
- Spaying and Neutering reduces the incidence of Perianal tumors and Perineal Hernias.
- Spaying and Neutering reduces the incidence of "bad" behavior such as inappropriate urination, "mounting", roaming and misplaced aggression.
- Spaying and Neutering prevents unwanted litters.
- Spaying and Neutering makes a happier more content pet.
- Spaying and Neutering **does not** make your pet fat and lazy. Sterilization sometimes reduces your pet's metabolic rate - this only means that you can feed your pet less and maintain a "normal" weight.

- Spaying and Neutering **does not** decrease your pets hunting or guarding instincts. Males and females hunt and guard with equal ability - these are not sex hormone related behaviors.
- Spaying and Neutering **does not** change your pets personality.
- Spaying and Neutering **is not** dangerous. Sterilization surgery is a safe and humane procedure. Chances of surgical complications or death are far less than the dangers of whelping or being injured while in search of a mate.