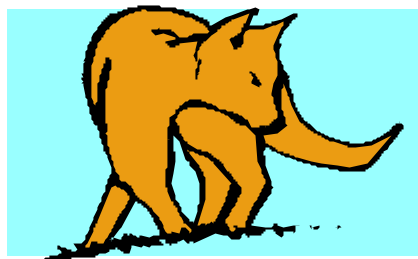


NEUTERING YOUR CAT

Although many people consider neutering of cats to be a routine operation, we recognise that for you and your pet, this day may be far from routine. We hope that this leaflet will help to explain what will happen to your pet when he or she has the operation.



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Your cat should be starved of food from 10pm the previous night. You should not withhold water. We would advise you keep your cat in overnight to avoid them failing to come home on time, or eating anything they shouldn't!

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

At the Ringwood Hospital, you will have been given an appointment time to drop off your pet so that we can try to cut down waiting time for you. The nurse will weigh him or her, and check that we have a daytime phone number for you. She will then discuss the Consent Form with you, and will check whether you have any questions. We will then take your pet to the kennel area, where the Ward Nurse will take over. Cats are kennelled separately from dogs. If you are in a hurry, please allow ten minutes to drop off your pet.

If your pet is being transported to Ringwood in our Animal Ambulance, we will discuss the Consent Form when you drop your cat off at the Verwood or Fern-down surgeries.

CHECK OVER

If your pet has not already received a veterinary check up, he or she will have one now. In this way we can ensure that there are no problems which may affect the anaesthetic.

PRE- MED

Before a general anaesthetic we give your pet an injection which makes him or her sleepy. This lessens the anxiety which all pets feel away from their families, and allows them to dream the next few hours away! He or she will also receive a pain-killer to ensure that there is no soreness after the operation. We put particular emphasis on this, as some pets can be very tolerant of pain, and we don't want to take any chances.

THE OPERATION

Your pet will receive a full general anaesthetic. We use a variety of anaesthetics in the Hospital, and this allows us to choose the best one for your pet. The anaesthetics we use are the same as those used on humans. Occasionally, there are individual reactions to these drugs, and these can be very serious, but these adverse reactions are

fortunately very rare indeed.

Your pet will be given an injection of anaesthetic into the vein on his or her front leg, and for this we will need to clip a small area of hair . Your pet will fall asleep immediately, and will be kept anaesthetised by using anaesthetic gas and a tube down the throat.

WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY DO?

Male cats are castrated. This means complete removal of both testicles. After a month or so, the loss of male hormone will usually make the m easier to handle, make them spray less and removes their interest in females. They are unable to mate successfully with a female.

When female cats are ‘spayed’, we remove their womb and ovaries. This means that they do not have seasons and are unable to have kittens.

AFTER THE OPERATION

Once surgery is over, your pet will wake up within a few minutes, and be passed on to the Ward Nurse again, who will be with him or her until they wake up fully.

Within a few hours, your pet should be up and walking around. We will try to contact you to let you know that all has gone well. If you have not heard by 3.00 pm, give us a ring and speak to the Ward Nurse.

When you collect your pet, the nurse will discuss after-care. In most cases, you will be surprised how lively your pet is after such an operation. Just think how we would be!

Your cat can have some of their normal food that evening, but don’t worry if he or she doesn’t have a normal appetite. Male cats should be kept indoors for 2-3 nights with a litter tray. After that, they can go out as usual as long as they seem well and have started eating normally. Females should stay in for 10 days—until their stitches are removed.


Male cats have no stitches in their wound, and therefore we do not need to check them again, unless you have any concerns.

Females will have stitches, which will be removed after ten days. This is a fairly straightforward procedure , and is done during a normal appointment. But remember that we are available at any time if you want to ask anything. At night you will be put through to the duty vet’s house.

We hope that this leaflet has answered some of your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have anything you want to ask.

YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH.....IS

AT.....am ON AT SURGERY

	RINGWOOD HOSPITAL 69 Christchurch Road. (Next to the Fire Station) 01425 473683
	VERWOOD SURGERY 17 Ringwood Road. (Next to the Recreation Ground). 01202 825217
	FERNDOWN SURGERY 522 Wimborne Road East 01202 861622