



WHAT IS SPAYING OR NEUTERING?

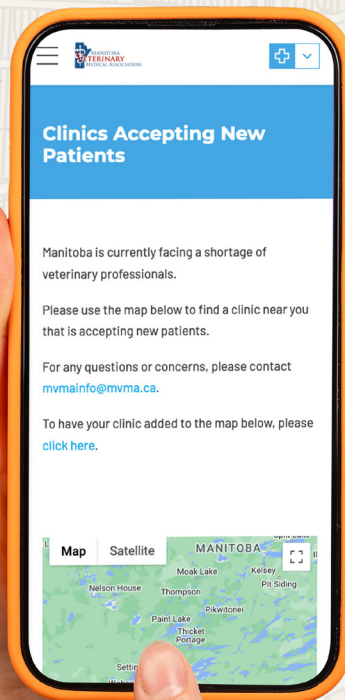


Spaying (females) and neutering (males) are routine surgeries to prevent pets from reproducing. Spaying removes the ovaries, while neutering removes the testicles.

NEED TO FIND A VET?

The Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association's website offers a comprehensive list of vets in the province. Please visit mvma.ca.

Did you know the Winnipeg Humane Society offers a *subsidized spay and neuter program (SNAP)*? Visit winnipeghumanesociety.ca/spay to see if your pet qualifies.



SPAY & NEUTER

What You Need to Know





WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SPAYING AND NEUTERING YOUR PET?

• Helps Control the Pet Population

Reduces unplanned litters, lowering the number of animals needing care and decreasing overcrowding in shelters. Fewer strays also mean less disease spread.

• Increases Lifespan

Protects against cancers and diseases:

- » **Males:** Lowers the risk of prostate issues and eliminates testicular cancer.
- » **Females:** Prevents uterine infections and reduces risks of ovarian, uterine, and breast cancers.
- » **Reduces roaming risks**, keeping pets safer from accidents and getting lost.
- » **Curbs problem behaviours** like territorial marking and mating instincts.

• Provides a Health Check

Allows for a veterinary exam and important vaccinations to protect against diseases like parvo and rabies.

• Makes Identification Easier

Fixed pets receive a tattoo for identification, helping reunite them with their owners if lost.

IS SPAY OR NEUTER SURGERY SAFE?

Yes. It's a common, low-risk procedure with significant health benefits that outweigh potential complications.

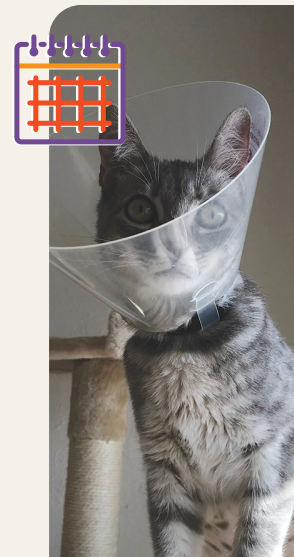


HOW DOES THE SURGERY WORK?

Your pet will first undergo a health check. Once cleared, they'll receive a sedative, be prepped for surgery, and then undergo the procedure to remove the reproductive organs. Vaccinations will also be updated if needed.

HOW LONG IS THE RECOVERY?

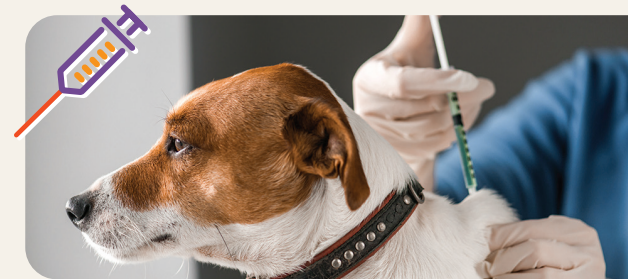
Pets usually recover in 10-14 days. Your pet may need to rest and avoid vigorous activity during this time. Follow your vet's post-operative care instructions closely.



WHAT AGE SHOULD MY PET BE?

The ideal window is between 3 to 6 months.

It's best to spay females before they go into their first heat as it reduces the risk of unwanted male attention from pheromones, as well as the risk of ovarian cancer, and eliminates the risk of breast cancer. For males, the benefits are largely behavioural.



ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

Yes, in some cases. Implants are available as a temporary birth control option for remote communities that don't have access to regular vet care and as a humane approach to controlling the stray dog population. Administered with a needle, these implants last 1-2 years and are suitable for dogs over 3 months old.

Spaying and neutering is still the recommended option for individual pets.