



What You Need to Know Before Surgery

- Your animal should be in good health. If your pet shows any sign of illness such as coughing, sneezing, runny eyes or diarrhea we may not be able to perform surgery. In which case, we will start on appropriate medications and then reschedule surgery when your pet is healthy.
- Kittens and puppies must be 8 weeks of age AND weigh at least 2 pounds.
- It is important to tell us what medications your pet is currently taking on the surgical intake form!

The Night Before Surgery

- **If your cat or dog is over 4 months old, do not allow him/her to eat any food after midnight the night before surgery.**
- You may allow your pet to have water at all times.
- If your cat or dog is less than 4 months old, (s)he may have food and water overnight.

Surgery Day

- If your cat or dog is less than 4 months old, feed him/her at 5:00 am the day of surgery. Please be aware of the exact time your pet ate so you can give us this information when checking in. You may allow your pet to have water.
 - If your animal is over 4 months old, no meals this morning!
 - Please walk your dog well - they will be in a kennel ALL day and we are not able to bathe them if they mess themselves after surgery!
 - You may give any medications with a very small (thumbnail-sized) treat at 6:00am
 - The Spay/Neuter Clinic entrance is located in the HPA! Shelter at 2800 Antoine, Houston TX. Drive around the building to the back where you will see a green door with the Houston Pets Alive Logo Sticker (it's small). There is a ring doorbell.
 - Please ring the doorbell
 - **Drop your pet at the HPA! Clinic between 7:00am and 8:00am.** Please leave space between your pet and others when completing the check-in process/paperwork.
- Please allow at least 30 minutes for check in.
- Late arrivals will be turned away so allow yourself plenty of time for your safety as well as the safety of our animals.
 - You must complete the necessary paperwork upon arrival. To save time the morning of your appointment, you are welcome to fill out the attached surgical intake form and bring it with you.

- For the safety of your pet and our staff, we require that all dogs be on a leash or in a crate and cats must be in an individual plastic or cardboard cat carrier at time of drop off. One adult cat per carrier, please! We do not keep leashes/collars and they will be given back to you immediately after intake; please make sure if you are not picking up your dog that the person who does has a leash/collar as we cannot provide these for surgical patients.
- Kittens/puppies less than 16 weeks can be no more than 2 to a carrier.
- Please let us know if your pet is known to be aggressive with people or other animals so that extra precautions maybe taken.

Reasons for Refusal of Surgery

Our staff will evaluate each patient prior to surgery and reserve the right to refuse service to any animal for whom surgery is deemed a health risk at that time.

Reasons for refusal may be but are not limited to:

- Animals over 4 months of age who are known to have eaten (including snacks or table scraps) after midnight the evening before surgery.
- Animals showing any signs of illness such as coughing, sneezing, runny eyes, or diarrhea.
- Animals who are younger than 8 weeks OR smaller than 2 pounds.

Picking Your Pet Up After Surgery

● **Pick your pet up between the hours of 3:00 and 4:00 pm** at the same place you dropped him/her off. Please allow 30-45 minutes for discharge. Please note that we close promptly at 5:45 pm. Please, arrive on time to pick up your pet! We cannot board animals.

- If you do not pick up your pet at the assigned time and the surgery facility has closed, you will need to come back the next morning to pick up your pet.
- We will give you instructions on taking care of your pet after surgery when you pick him/her up. A copy of surgical discharge instructions are provided at discharge.
- All adult male dogs will receive an Elizabethan collar and it is imperative that they wear it for 10-14 days after surgery - generally most other animals do not need one but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; if you know your pet is a "licker" please let us know that the morning of surgery. If it is after hours and you see your pet licking, Elizabethan collars may be purchased at any retail pet store.

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL MEDICAL PROCEDURES ARE AT THE DR.'S DISCRETION AND ONLY MEDICALLY NECESSARY PROCEDURES WILL BE COMPLETED.

IF you have an emergency the morning of surgery you may dial 713-492-2389 or email Routinemedical@houstonpetsalive.org.