



Desexing dogs and cats

Desexing your dog or cat is an important step that you can take to prevent unwanted litters and reduce the burden on our rescues and shelters. If you don't plan on breeding, then desexing is recommended. Desexing also has many health and behavioral benefits so read on to learn more.

Male dogs

- Prevents prostate problems- in entire male dogs, the prostate gland enlarges overtime where it can cause discomfort, infection and difficulty defecating. Desexing your male dog will shrink the prostate, preventing infection and enlargement.
- Reduces undesirable behaviours- such as urine marking, mounting and fighting, and can make these undesirable behaviours easier to manage.

Female dogs

- Prevents pyometra (pus-filled uterus)- one of the most common medical conditions we see in entire female dogs where the uterus becomes full of pus. Treatment involves an emergency hysterectomy and can result in death if not treated rapidly
- Reduces risk of mammary tumours- incidence of developing mammary cancer in entire female dogs is 25%. Desexing female dogs before their first season reduces her risk of mammary cancer to less than 1%, their second season 8%.
- Prevents other reproductive tract conditions- including ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cysts and phantom pregnancies.

Male cats

- Reduces undesirable behaviour- Desexing your male cat can reduce his desire to roam, urine spray (not to mention their urine is very smelly!) and fights other cats.
- Reduced risk of injury and disease- entire male cats are more likely to become injured from cat fights and traffic accidents and are more likely to transmit disease such as feline AIDS and Feline Leukaemia.
- Desexed male cats are easier to rehome- Entire “Tom” cats are the least desirable pet and the most difficult to find homes for. Desexing your male cat will ensure he has the best chance of settling in and being content with your family.

Female cats

- Prevents unwanted litters and the need to find homes for the kittens.
- Eliminates reproductive cycle behaviours such as howling, crying, trying to escape to find a mate, and urine marking
- Prevents mammary tumours, pyometra, and other reproductive tract conditions

What age should I desex?

For cats, we recommend desexing by 4 months of age and they must weigh at least 2kg. NSW government has introduced Annual Permits for cats that are not desexed over for months. For more information see [Annual Permits - Office of Local Government NSW](#)

For small to medium size dogs, we recommend desexing at 6 months of age. For large breed dogs we recommend desexing between 12-18 months. Desexing at a later age for large breeds may help prevent hip and joint problems and our vets will make individual recommendations for your pet at their visit. We can also edit their profile on the pet registry to avoid having to pay late fees to council.

What is involved in the surgery?

When you entrust your pet with us for desexing we will provide a high level of personalised care, because all our patients are different. We implement safe anaesthetic plans, current monitoring and surgical techniques combined with our highly trained staff to ensure we are providing a quality service.

- [Admission & discharge](#)- one of our surgical nurses will spend time obtaining all the relevant information and history needed for your pet on admission, discuss any concerns, and explain detailed home care instructions on discharge
- [Pre-anaesthetic and FAS \(fear/anxiety/stress\) exam](#)- our surgical nurse will check your pets' vitals and level of FAS in preparation for the surgery and hospital stay. Fear free medication and handling techniques may be implemented if your pet shows signs of FAS
- [Intravenous catheter](#)- allows for administration of fluids, anaesthetics or emergency drugs if needed
- [Intra-operative fluid therapy](#)- helps to maintain blood pressure and blood flow to the kidneys. May also help to combat any dehydration that has occurred because of fasting, and helps to improve recovery time
- [Base-line bloods](#)- a PCV (packed cell volume) and TPP (total plasma protein) is performed that tells us the percentage of red blood cells and the levels of protein. Abnormal levels may indicate anaemia, dehydration or a problem with liver, kidney or gut. We may recommend further blood tests, adjust our anaesthetic plan, or we may go ahead as normal
- [Pre-anaesthetic blood screening \(optional\)](#)- to minimise surgical and anaesthetic risk and to give you peace of mind, we can perform a blood test, in addition to base-line bloods, that tests the liver and kidneys for abnormalities that would otherwise not be detected on physical exam. We can perform this test in-house and have the results immediately. The nurse will ask you if you would like this test done on admission, at an additional cost of \$85
- [Tailored anaesthetic and pain management plan](#)- your pet is administered effective anaesthetics and powerful analgesics to ensure a smooth surgery and recovery. Your pet will also be provided with pain relief to administer at home
- [Monitoring, TLC and experienced staff](#)- we offer the latest equipment and monitors to measure cardiac output, ECG, respiration, blood pressure, oxygen saturation and temperature. We have machines that provide warmth to keep your pets temperature regulated, and our staff are highly skilled and trained to use, monitor and respond to your pet's needs.

What other procedures can be performed at desexing?

- Heartworm injections
- Hind dew claw removal
- Hernia repair
- Removal of retained baby teeth
- Ear cleans
- Nail clipping
- Anal gland expression

More advanced procedures include

- Gastropexy [Prophylactic Gastropexy for your puppy.pdf](#)
- Soft palate and/or nares correction [Brachycephalic airway syndrome.pdf](#)

What are the pre-surgery instructions?

- No food after 10pm the night before
- Water is ok up until 1 hour before admission
- Allow your pet the opportunity to toilet before admission
- Ensure your pet is clean and dry
- Tell us if you would like to try some Fear Free medication before the day of surgery

