

Thank you for scheduling a sterilization surgery with Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority.

The morning of surgery-

Cats should be in size/species appropriate carriers and dogs should arrive on leash or in a size/species appropriate carrier. Due to the high amount of foot traffic in the lobby at drop off, please leave your animal(s) in the car while intake and payment is processed, as weather allows.

Please allow a few minutes for paperwork and payment at the time of drop off. Cash, VISA and MasterCard are accepted forms of payment; payment is due at drop off.

The address of our Animal Care Center is 3370 Thomas Road, Santa Clara, 95054. Our nearest major cross streets are San Tomas Expressway and 101.

Please be sure to have your current CA driver's license (or photo ID). Residents of Santa Clara, Campbell, Monte Sereno and Mountain View must provide proof of current residency for pricing and licensing purposes. Proof of residency would be a leasing agreement, mortgage statement, utility bill, renter's or homeowner's insurance statement, etc.

If you arrive after check in, your animal may be turned away and must be placed back on the waiting list for an appointment. It is your responsibility to contact SVACA to be placed back onto the waiting list. If your appointment is rescheduled on short notice you will be required to pre-pay for your next scheduled surgery slot.

If someone is dropping your animal for you that morning, please provide a written and signed note authorizing that individual to sign for services at SVACA. Please include a photocopy of your ID and proof of residency.

Please note- animals are given pain control by injection and/or orally prior to discharge but not prescribed any medication to take home, if you feel your animal will be in need of additional pain control please contact your private veterinarian prior to your surgery date.

Residents of Santa Clara, Campbell, Monte Sereno and Mountain View:

If your animal is unlicensed, the purchase of a license is required at the time of surgery. The license follows the term of your animal's rabies vaccination; if your animal has been rabies vaccinated please provide proof of that vaccine. If your animal is in need of a rabies vaccine for licensing, one will be provided to you at no cost.

Vaccines are not available to pregnant females or animal under 4 months of age. Please bring proof of any previous rabies vaccination as it changes the due date of the vaccine.

Canine and feline distemper vaccines (FVRCP and DA2PP) are available to animals of age, as supply allows. The vaccines should be given at approximately 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age

and then one time yearly. If you choose to vaccinate, it is not recommended to do more than one vaccine on the day of surgery in the event of an allergic reaction to the vaccine.

**Vaccine reactions are described in the General Discharge Instructions.

**Emergency veterinary referrals are included in the General Discharge Instructions.

Testing services for cats:

FeLV for cats under 6 months of age

FIV/FeLV/Heartworm for cats over 6 months of age.

Microchipping is also available.

Pre-operative Instructions and Surgical Descriptions-

While not required, it is recommended that all animals are current on vaccinations prior to their surgical date.

Do not feed your animal any food (including treats) after 10pm the night before surgery; your animal can have access to water.

If your animal is in need of a bath, please note that bathing and grooming should be avoided for up to 2 weeks after surgery while the incision heals.

Your animal will be kenneled in a clean, size appropriate kennel with a towel/blanket. SVACA's veterinarian will provide a cursory exam, evaluating the overall health of your animal. At this time, a pre-anesthetic agent will be administered subcutaneously (under the skin). This will reduce your animal's anxiety in a new place before the surgical preparation and procedure can begin.

Your animal will be induced with a different agent intravenously (into the vein, similar in concept to drawing blood) to allow for general inhaled anesthesia and surgical prep once s/he is relaxed. This agent is a combination of drugs that will allow your animal to be in a deep sleep and also offer pain control.

Once your animal is safely under anesthesia the eyes will be lubricated with artificial tears, s/he will also have a pulse oximeter attached to the tongue, ear, or paw to monitor heart rate and breathing. This is when blood will be drawn, if your animal is to be tested.

Spay surgery (canine and feline) – The fur on your animal's abdomen (belly) will be shaved, her skin will then be scrubbed with a safe, surgical disinfectant. The incision will be made on the midline of the abdomen, below the umbilicus (belly button). The ovaries will be located first and the blood vessels will be ligated (tied with suture material), the uterus can then be ligated and removed. The layers of muscle and skin will be sutured (stitched) using

absorbable suture material. Once the incision site has been completely sutured, a small sterile needle is used to deposit a tiny bit of tattoo ink on either side of the incision. The scar left behind once your animal has healed is quite small and can be difficult to see, the ink will help it to stand out to veterinarians examining the area.

Neuter surgery (canine) – The fur on and around your animal’s scrotum and penis will be shaved and the area will be scrubbed with a safe, surgical disinfectant. The incision will be made between the scrotum and penis; each testicle will be removed through the same incision. Once exposed, the vessels to the testicle will be ligated (tied with suture material) and the testicle removed. The layers of muscle and skin will be sutured (stitched) using absorbable suture material.

Neuter surgery (feline) – The fur on and around your animal’s will be shaved while one incision is made just over each testicle in the cat. The skin will then be scrubbed with a safe, surgical disinfectant. An incision will be made just over each testicle, the vessels to the testicle are tied-off internally and the skin is allowed to heal on its own.

A cap and mask is worn by SVACA’s surgeon, as is a sterile gown and sterile surgical gloves. All instruments are scrubbed, disinfected, ultrasonically cleaned and steam sterilized between patients to aid in the prevention of infection, cross contamination and the spread of infectious diseases.

General Discharge Information and Instructions-

Your animal has just undergone a surgical procedure that, while routine, causes some degree of stress on the body. By reading, understanding and following these instructions, you can ease the recovery period for your animal as well as your family.

Your animal was given animals pain control by injection and/or orally prior to discharge. If you feel your animal is in need of additional pain control following surgery, please contact your private veterinarian and be sure to bring the medical record with you to the appointment.

Your animal may be lethargic, inactive, or uncoordinated for the first 24-48 hours after anesthesia, do not allow them into areas where they might fall or otherwise injure themselves. For dogs, exercise should be limited to 10-15 minute walks while on leash several times throughout the day. If normal activity and coordination do not return within 48 hours, contact your private veterinarian.

If your animal received vaccinations at surgery, please note that vaccines can have a range of adverse effects. Some animals may exhibit mild symptoms of illness such as sneezing or lethargy, while some may experience systemic reactions. A systemic reaction may present as a fever and limping, this is usually responsive to pain relievers, resolving in 3-4 days, or in anaphylactic shock which is a serious compromise of the respiratory system. An

animal showing signs of a systemic reaction needs to be seen by his/her veterinarian immediately. Some animals may have swelling or hair loss at the injection site (most common), muscle aches or soreness, vomiting and/or diarrhea, and sometimes swelling of the muzzle or “hives” across the body.

If your animal needs to be picked up or lifted for any reason, be sure the hind end of your animal is fully supported to keep pressure off the incision site.

Some animals may cough for one or two days following anesthesia, this is common after a breathing tube has been placed. If this persists for more than two days or is accompanied by yellow or green discharge from the eyes or nose, call your private veterinarian.

Anesthetic drugs can cause nausea in some animals, by feeding smaller meals you can help settle your animal’s stomach. Please offer a small meal before bedtime and a small meal for breakfast, normal feeding can resume the evening of the day after surgery. If your animal either refuses food or is vomiting after the 24 hours following surgery, you should contact your private veterinarian for follow-up care.

You should observe your animal’s urination and bowel habits. If they are not normal within 24 hours, call your private veterinarian.

Animals, just like people, are more susceptible to disease during times of stress. It is important to keep your animal inside as much as possible, this limits their contact with other animals who may be carriers of disease and keeps them from getting dirt and/or debris in the incision as it is healing.

It is important to keep your animal as calm and quiet as is possible for the five to ten (5-10) day period following surgery. Discourage running, jumping, climbing, as well as any sort of rough play; while this can be a challenge, especially for young animals, it is important for your animal’s health and recovery.

Your animal should not be bathed or go swimming for 10-14 days post-surgery to prevent infection at the incision site.

The suture used is dissolvable and will remain intact for 60-90 days, if it is bothering your animal please call 408-764-0358 or consult with your private veterinarian regarding its removal. Please note: the incision made for the neuter of male cats is not sutured.

Please inspect the surgical incision daily, along the midline of the belly for female dogs and cats, just above the scrotum for male dogs and just below the tail for male cats. The incision site should scab over as part of the healing process, just like the cuts and scratches we sometimes get. A small amount of swelling and redness is normal, but should not persist for more than five days following surgery.

Any discharge or drainage from the incision should be reported to your private veterinarian and your animal may need to be seen by your vet. Most animals do not focus on the incision site but if your animal does s/he should wear an e-collar when not under your direct supervision, these collars are sold by neck size at many pet stores. Some females may develop a walnut size lump at the incision site, if you see any seepage or the lump becomes excessively large please call 408-764-0358 or contact your private veterinarian. There will be a small amount of ink on either side of the incision; there is no need to try to remove it.

If you are concerned about your animal's recovery, please call 408-764-0358 or contact your private veterinarian.

In the event you need to seek medical attention after normal business hours you can contact:

United Emergency Animal Clinic (2 locations) www.emergencyanimalclinic.com
 905 Dell Avenue, Campbell, 95008.....408-371-6252
 Now open 24 hours.

5440 Thornwood Drive, San Jose, 95123.....408-578-5622
 Hours: Weekdays from 6pm until 8am the following morning, every weekend from 6pm
 Friday until 8am Monday morning. Statutory holidays from 6pm the evening before the
 holiday until 8am the day after the holiday.

Adobe Animal Hospital www.adobe-animal.com
 4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos, 94022.....650-948-9661
 Hours: Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a years.

Please note: you are responsible for veterinary costs incurred if your animal is in need of medical attention.