



**Parsons Pet Hospital**  
**Eva I. Dudek, D.V.M.**  
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## **PREPARING FOR SURGERY**

Your pet has just finished his or her series of “baby shots”, and is ready to be neutered or spayed. Here are some things that you should know:

First, it is an old wives’ tale that you should wait until a pet’s first heat or litter or at least until it is six months old to spay/neuter your pet. There is no truth to any of that. In fact, it is better to get those procedures done at an earlier age, about four months. They tolerate the anesthesia better and bounce back quicker.

Secondly, by spaying or neutering before they reach sexual maturity, you are completely preventing common adult problems such as mammary cancer, prostate and testicular cancer, perianal hernias, uterine infections, and of course, unwanted pregnancies, therefore helping to control the population.

Anesthetic risk is very, very low. Although there are no ways to predict a problem, sometimes pre-anesthetic blood testing can help us find things we can’t see on the outside. Blood testing is recommended but not mandatory. Please ask a technician to learn more about what the tests tell us so you can be more informed about your decision. Normal blood test results do not guarantee risk-free procedures.

You also have the option of having laser used to make all cuts and incisions. The benefits of laser are that it cauterizes blood vessels so there is less swelling, and there is less chance of infection. If this service is cost prohibitive for you, please know that Dr. Dudek is very careful and gentle with the scalpel blade, too.

The night before surgery, you must withhold food after 7:00pm. This is because some patients can get sick from the anesthesia and vomit. This can cause serious problems as they aspirate it and get pneumonia or even die. They can have all the water they want, just no food. Please tell us if you think your pet may have eaten anything the morning of surgery – we may need to reschedule.

Other things that can be done are things that are difficult when your little angel is awake, like trimming nails, combing out mats, and cleaning ears. If you need anything extra done, please let us know.

Last to consider is tattoos and microchips. These are permanent identification methods that can be done using anesthesia. A tattoo is done on the inner thigh of a dog and the ear of a cat. The microchip is placed under the skin, in between the shoulder blades.

Please call 620-421-1566 to set up an appointment for your pet, or if you have any questions.

Thank you for choosing Parsons Pet Hospital!