



Why does Spaying and Neutering Cost more at East Suburban Animal Hospital?

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Many times, pet owners try to find the best price for routine surgeries. It's important to know that the procedures may be done differently at other facilities. We do many things that others may not do. If you are comparing other places, ask if they are doing the following. The key words for items to ask about are in bold.

--A **history and physical examination** are done before the surgery. If there are preexisting conditions, this will detect the vast majority of problems that could affect the outcome of the surgery.

--**Preoperative blood tests** may detect problems in less than 1% of young healthy appearing animals. This is not required but recommended in pets older than 8 years or if there are suspicions from the history and physical exam.

--**Preoperative sedation and pain medicine** are given to relax the pet before the procedure. Giving it before the surgery has been shown to help reduce the pain after the surgery.

--An **intravenous catheter** is placed to provide easy access to the vascular system if there is a problem and to administer intravenous fluids.

--Intravenous **propofol and isoflurane gas** are used for anesthesia. Both are out of the system within 30 minutes so the pet wakes up more quickly and smoothly without a hangover. Any sedation you may see at discharge will be from the pain medication.

--Immediately after the propofol is given, an **endotracheal tube** is inserted to insure a patent airway and prevent aspiration of anything that may come from the nasal cavity, esophagus or stomach. It also allows safe administration of the isoflurane and oxygen.

--A **pulse oximeter** is immediately placed on the pet to **constantly monitor heart rate** and oxygenation.

--**Warming devices** are used to maintain the pet's body temperature during and after surgery.

--**Intravenous fluids** are given during the surgery. This helps support the kidneys to reduce the chance of postoperative kidney failure. The patient also feels better and recovers more quickly postoperatively when given fluid support.

--During the surgery, there is **someone dedicated to monitoring** the patient visually and by observing the various monitors that we use.

--The surgery is done in a **room reserved for only sterile surgery**.

--**Caps, masks, and new sterile gowns** are used by the surgeon for each surgery.

--A **new autoclaved pack** is used for each patient.

--After surgery, **one person is dedicated to observe the patient until it is awake** enough to remove the tube and lift its head.

--**Postoperative pain is assessed and medication given** at appropriate intervals while in the hospital and for after discharge. The medication is adjusted according to the patient status.

--A doctor is **available by phone at all times** postoperatively.