Pre-Operative Instructions

What to Know Before Surgery

• **We work by appointment only.** If you don’t have an appointment, we cannot provide service. You must call (804) 379-9725 in advance to schedule. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm. If you get our voicemail, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

• **We only provide spay and neuter services and cannot perform general care for your pet.** We strongly recommend that you already have a regular veterinarian for your pet before coming for surgery. Pets should be seen by a veterinarian at least once a year for an exam and to get necessary vaccinations.

• **Animals must be healthy to have surgery.** Upon examination, if your pet shows signs of illness (nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, or diarrhea), signs of injury (bite wounds, deep cuts, hurt limbs), has a heart murmur or seizures may be declined for surgery. We advise that you visit a full-service veterinarian before rescheduling.

• **It is best for your pet if he/she is vaccinated at least two (2) weeks prior to your appointment for surgery. This a recommendation not a requirement.** Your pet is less likely to catch contagious diseases if he/she is vaccinated before coming in for surgery. Rabies vaccine is required. You can show paper certificate as proof of prior vaccination or have it done at time of surgery. Tags do not provide enough proof. In addition, we recommend your pet receives a distemper/parvo vaccine and a Bordetella (kennel cough) vaccine before surgery. We will provide vaccines here as needed, please mark them on your forms.

• **We only accept paper rabies certificate as proof of up to date Rabies vaccine.** Tags do not provide enough info. Call the veterinary office that gave the vaccine for a copy if needed. If not up to date on Rabies vaccine or cannot supply proof, we have to give your pet the vaccination for the normal cost listed on our prices.

• **Kittens and puppies must be 8 weeks of age AND weigh at least 2 pounds.** The ideal age for surgery is 5-7 months but we recommend discussing the best age for your pet with your veterinarian.

• **We suggest topical Flea/Tick preventative be applied 72 hours prior to your pet’s appointment.** Any pets with fleas at exam will be given a fast acting medication to kill fleas. The cost will be added to your invoice.

What you need to do the night before surgery

• Keep your cat and dog indoors/contained the night before surgery, including feral cats. Walk your dog on a leash the morning of surgery. This is to prevent them eating/hunting food without you knowing.

• If your animal is OVER 4 months old, take away his/her food at midnight, water is ok until 6 am.

• If your animal is LESS than 4 months old, he or she may have food and water overnight and a light meal at 6 am. the morning of surgery. No food or water after 6 am.

Day of Surgery

• **Check in time is 8:00 am the day of your appointment. Arrival after 8:30 am, we may ask you to reschedule.**

• **Please print and fill out the required paperwork from our website and bring it with you filled out at check in.** Otherwise, you will be asked step out of line to fill out the paperwork outside or in your car before admitting your pet. We have copies of the forms available 24 hours a day in a weather proof box on our ramp. **Continue ->**
Day of Surgery continued

- All dogs must be on a collar/leash and all cats must be in a secure carriers or traps for ferals. We prefer hard side carriers. Multiple cats must go home in separate carriers. Please label all carriers with owner and pet name. You must bring dog leash to pick up. We cannot discharge pets that are not on leash or in a carrier/trap.

- We only accept cash (exact change) or Major Credit Cards. No Checks or CareCredit. We accept payment at Pick Up/ Check out. If paying with cash, please find out the total and bring in exact change; we cannot make change.

- Pets are discharged on the same day of their surgery and must be picked up at 4 pm. We do not board pets. Our staff leaves the property at 5:00 pm. Any pets who are not picked up by 4:30pm will be charged an additional fee. Chesterfield Animal Control will be called to pick up any pets left at 5pm. Exception to pick up times only when staff calls to approve early pick up. Sometimes anxious pets are better discharged early. If your pet is the anxious type, please be prepared to pick up early when we call.

Reasons why we may refuse your pet or feral cat for surgery

Our veterinarians perform a general physical examination on patients prior to surgery and reserve the right to refuse service to any animal for whom surgery is deemed a health risk.

Reasons for possible refusal include, but are not limited to:

- Sick animals, animals under the care of a veterinarian and taking certain medications. See Full Service Vet for surgical clearance, but veterinarian on surgery day has final approval/refusal.

- Animals over 4 months of age who are known to have eaten (including snacks or table scraps) after midnight the evening before surgery. This poses a vomiting/aspiration risk.

- Animals who were left outside the night before surgery (they may have eaten or fought with another animal).

- Animals that cannot safely be handled and examined by our clinic staff (feral cats in traps are the exception).

- Feral cats must arrive in humane traps. If a feral cat is brought to our clinic in a carrier we may not be able to perform surgery. Only 1 feral cat per trap. If multiples are in 1 trap, we will ask you to reschedule.

- Animals with health issues, such as a heart murmur or respiratory illness, may be referred to a full service veterinary hospital for treatment before surgery can safely be performed.

- Kittens or puppies younger than 8 weeks OR smaller than 2 pounds.

- Obese or excessively overweight pets.

- Female pets too far along with a pregnancy. Please call the clinic.

If any of the issues above apply to your animal, please discuss this with our staff before your scheduled appointment.