Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

Guidelines for Spay/Neuter

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Guidelines for Spay/Neuter

- Based on the ASV’s Guidelines for Spay/Neuter Programs published in July 2008
- Authors were members of ASV’s Spay/Neuter task force
- Veterinarians from shelters, academia, and HQHVSN clinics
Guidelines for Spay/Neuter

Three Sections:
- Veterinary Medical Guidelines
- Surgery and Anesthesia
- Identifying Neutered Animals

What do the guidelines say?

Animal shelters should require that cats and dogs be spayed or neutered prior to adoption
Poll Question

At what age is your organization performing spays and neuters on pediatric patients?

a. 6 weeks  
b. 8-10 weeks  
c. 12 weeks and older  
d. Younger than 6 weeks

Select your answer in the Poll box on the right

What do the guidelines say?

• Surgical sterilization is the most reliable and effective means of preventing unwanted reproduction of dogs and cats  
• 6 weeks of age and older
What do the guidelines say?

If voucher programs are implemented, an effective method of follow up to confirm surgery has been completed should be included.

![Spaying & Neutering Saves Lives](image)

$50 Rebate when you get your puppy that was whelped at Puppy Luv Creations, spayed/neutered by age 6 months. Appropriate documentation must be received within 30 days of procedure.

What do the guidelines say?

Allowing shelter animals to breed is **unacceptable**.

![Cartoon](image)

"Ha ha ha, I'll guess what! After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get spayed."
Veterinary Medical Guidelines

Spaying and Neutering must be performed by veterinarians or veterinary students under direct supervision of a veterinarian in compliance with all legal requirements.
Veterinary Medical Guidelines

Controlled substances must be maintained in accordance with DEA requirements.
Veterinary Medical Guidelines

Medical records must be prepared for each patient, indicating the surgical procedure and anesthesia administered.

Question – answer in the chat

Of the following medical conditions, in which one would surgery be ill-advised?

a. URI in a cat
b. Generalized demodecosis in a 14 week old puppy
c. Pregnant dog (last trimester)
d. It is up to the discretion of the veterinarian
Veterinary Medical Guidelines

A veterinarian must make the final decision regarding accepting any patient for surgery

Surgery and Anesthesia

Appropriate housing must be provided for each animal before and after surgery
Surgery and Anesthesia

Animals who are feral should be housed in enclosures that allow administration of anesthetics.

The operating room should be dedicated to surgery and contain the necessary equipment for anesthesia and patient monitoring.
Surgery and Anesthesia

- The surgeon should wear appropriate surgical attire intended for use within the operating area
- Surgical caps and masks are *required*, except for routine castration of cats and pediatric puppies
- Sterile surgical gowns are *recommended* when performing abdominal procedures
- Single-use sterile surgical gloves are *required* for spays and dog castrations, and *recommended* for routine cat castrations

Surgery and Anesthesia

- Following hair removal, the skin should be disinfected with an appropriate surgical scrub agent
- Draping is *required* for all abdominal procedures and for the castration of dogs
Surgery and Anesthesia

For all surgical procedures:
- Gentle tissue handling
- Hemostasis
- Aseptic technique
- Verified hemostasis at the end of the procedure

Aseptic surgical technique is required, and separate sterile instruments should be used for each patient.
- No sharing of packs between littermates!
Surgery and Anesthesia

Surgical Procedures

• Ovariohysterectomy/Ovariectomy
  ➢ Many variations of the spay procedure are accepted for cats and dogs, including length and location of the surgical incision
  ➢ Complete removal of both ovaries is *required*

• Orchidectomy
  ➢ Prescrotal and scrotal approaches are acceptable
  ➢ Complete removal of both testes is *required*
  ➢ For cryptorchid animals, both testes should be removed or referred elsewhere for removal
Surgery and Anesthesia

Suture or surgical clips must be of biomedical grade, approved for surgical use, and dated for current use.

Association of Shelter Veterinarians

Surgery and Anesthesia

Balanced anesthetic protocols should be used

- Sedation
- Pre and post-op analgesia
- Stress reduction
- Muscle relaxation
- Reversible loss of consciousness

Association of Shelter Veterinarians
Question – answer in the Chat

Which of the following is not recommended for routine pre-medication prior to spay/neuter surgery?

a. Dexdomitor  
b. Acepromazine  
c. Atropine  
d. Morphine

Surgery and Anesthesia

- Analgesic agents are *required* for all animals undergoing neutering
- The routine use of anticholinergics such as atropine may be associated with adverse affects and is *not recommended*
Surgery and Anesthesia

The routine perioperative use of antimicrobials is not recommended

- Antibiotic use should be reserved for specific indications, such as a pre-existing infection or a break in surgical asepsis

Surgery and Anesthesia

- Mask induction of anesthesia should be minimized because it causes stress, severe sympathomimetic effects, and bronchial irritation
- Anesthesia protocols that require intubation are safer for the patient
Surgery and Anesthesia

Perioperative and intraoperative thermoregulation is best preserved by:

- Reducing contact with cold surfaces following pre-medication and during surgery
- Limiting body cavity exposure
- Providing carefully monitored patient contact with circulating warm water, warmed containers, or rice mamas
- Avoiding excessive scrubbing and use of isopropyl alcohol on the surgical site

Question – answer in the Chat

The best way to monitor a patient’s respiratory rate is:

a. Pulse oximeter
b. Respiratory monitor
c. Direct observation of the patient
d. Observing bag movement
Surgery and Anesthesia

All patients should be monitored by trained personnel

Surgery and Anesthesia

Plans must be in place to handle any emergency
Surgery and Anesthesia

In the post-operative period, care must be taken to provide patients with a smooth transition from the anesthetized state.

Surgery and Anesthesia-Pediatrics

“The AVMA supports the concept of early (8-16 weeks of age) ovariohysterectomies/gonadectomies in dogs and cats, in an effort to stem the overpopulation problem in these species.”
**Question – answer in the Chat**

What is the proper amount of time for pediatric animals to be fasted prior to surgery?

a. They should not be fasted  
b. 2-4 hours  
c. 6 hours  
d. 12 hours

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**Surgery and Anesthesia - Pediatrics**

Special Considerations

Hypoglycemia

- Only fast 2-4 hours prior to surgery
- Feed small meal immediately after recovery
Surgery and Anesthesia - Pediatrics

Special Considerations
Hypothermia
- Decrease prep time
- Smaller shaved area
- Avoid alcohol
- Supplemental heat
- Recover littermates together

Anesthetic Considerations
- Quick, easily administered, reversible anesthesia is ideal
- Many protocols are safe
- Must have accurate weight for proper drug dosing
Gentle Tissue Handling! Remember, surgical technique influences post-op pain!

Identifying Neutered Animals

Male Cats

Not neutered

Neutered
Identifying Neutered Animals

The use of a permanent tattoo is strongly recommended to mark animals at the time of spay/neuter.

Identifying Neutered Animals

Removal of the tip of one of the ears is the accepted global standard for marking or identifying a neutered free-roaming or feral cat.
Surgery and Anesthesia

Patients must be evaluated immediately prior to release; clear instruction, both written and verbal, for post-operative care must be provided.

Policies for managing complications and emergencies that occur within 48 hours after surgery must be in place.
How many things can you find that go against the guidelines for spay/neuter?

www.ASPCApro.org/asv

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Next Webinar in Series:

Shelter Guidelines: Group Housing

Thursday, December 15