

*You have made an important decision regarding your pet's healthcare and have scheduled an elective surgical procedure. Here are answers to some common questions regarding surgery and aftercare.*



#### Hours of Operation

Monday 8am - 8pm	Tuesday 8am - 8pm
Wednesday 8am - 8pm 6:30am Early Morning Check-In	Thursday 8am - 8pm
Friday 8am - 5pm	Saturday 8am - 3pm
Sunday Closed	

Typically, patients for elective surgeries are admitted between 8am and 9am Monday-Friday. Often, surgery is then performed between 9am and 12pm. Most patients are then able to go home the same day, after 3pm. One exception are the declaw patients, they stay overnight as the paws are bandaged and this also ensures appropriate activity restriction immediately post-op. Declaw patients may go home any time after 9am the day after surgery. Upon discharge, our staff will meet with you and go over all discharge instructions including activity restrictions and at home pain management.

For more Information or to Schedule a Consultation, please call: (920) 498-2808 or 800-236-2808.

[www.packerlandvet.com](http://www.packerlandvet.com)

# WILL IT HURT?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTIVE SURGERY



 **Packerland**  
**VETERINARY** Center, Ltd.

121 Packerland Dr. Green Bay, WI 54303  
Phone: (920) 498-2808 Fax: (920) 498-1365

[www.packerlandvet.com](http://www.packerlandvet.com)

### Q: What exactly is a spay or neuter?

**A:** Neutering is the general term referring to either a spay in females or castration in males. However, we commonly use this term to specifically refer to castration in males. A neuter, or castration, involves complete removal of the testicles from the scrotal sac. Typically, after a neuter, the scrotal sac will shrink up due to the void created when the testicles are removed. A spay procedure, also known as an ovario-hysterectomy, involves complete removal of the female reproductive organs (ovaries and uterus) through an incision made in the abdomen. Spay and neuter procedures are the most common elective surgeries, and pets typically do well afterward provided they follow the home care instructions.

### Q: What is a declaw?

**A:** A declaw, or onychectomy, is a surgical procedure performed in cats to remove the claws. Declaw procedures can be performed on just the front limbs or all four limbs. The procedure is performed by first making an incision around each individual claw. An incision is then made into the first joint of the digit and both the claw and the first, tiny bone of the digit are removed. The incisions are then closed using either tissue glue or dissolvable suture material. Declaw procedures can be performed on cats of any age or size, however young, slim cats have the least amount of complications.



### Q: What is a mass removal?

**A:** A mass removal is surgical excision/removal of lumps, bumps, warts and other growths. Masses can be removed for a variety of reasons: they may get bumped and bleed, they bother the pet, hinder movement, are unsightly or show abnormal characteristics suggestive of cancer. Once a mass has been removed, owners have the option of sending the tissue in for histopathology, where the tissue is looked at microscopically to determine if there is cause for concern.



### Q: Will my pet have stitches?

**A:** Often, people think of sutures (stitches) as the ones that you see in the skin. The reality is that most surgical procedures have multiple layers of sutures placed, with some below the skin and some visible within the skin. The sutures that owners need to watch closely are those within the skin. Spay procedures will have a row of sutures on the abdomen. Neuters will often have sutures placed in the groin area, just in front of the scrotum. Canine neuters performed using the laser often will not have sutures placed, but the incision will be closed with tissue glue. Feline neuters do not have sutures placed at all, nor is tissue glue used. Declaw incisions can be closed using either sutures or tissue glue, depending on the size of the patient. Almost all mass removals will have sutures placed. In some instances, they may also have a drain placed in the surgical site to help prevent fluid build-up in the area. Sutures and drains will need to be removed by your veterinarian within a recommended amount of time.

### Q: Is surgery painful?

**A:** Anesthesia itself does not provide any pain relief, it merely makes patients sleep so that surgery may be performed. Surgery is performed using a variety of methods, including a scalpel, laser, electrosurgery or radiosurgery. Any time tissue is manipulated and structures are removed, there is discomfort. The difficulty in assessing discomfort in animals is that even though they feel pain like we do, they do not express pain in the same ways. It is very rare for pets to vocalize (cry, whine, howl) when they are in pain. Instead, they are often reluctant to move, quiet, withdrawn, hesitant to eat/drink, walk differently and they may even become aggressive toward other animals or people.

### Q: What can be done for pain associated with surgery?

**A:** Pain control in animals has come a long way in the last 10 years. Currently there are many different types of pain medications available for use in animals. Pain control protocols have also been developed to address pain throughout the surgical process. Often, patients are given an injection of pain medication prior to anesthesia and surgery. This injection ensures that pain during the surgical procedure is controlled – remember, anesthesia does not provide pain control. Then, a second injection of a pain medication is given immediately after surgery to control pain during and after recovery from the anesthesia. Also, most patients go home with oral pain medications, or potentially an extended release pain control patch, to control discomfort for several days following surgery.



### Q: What pain medication will my pet receive?

**A:** Packerland Veterinary Center offers a wide variety of pain medications in injectable, tablet and liquid form. This allows the surgeon/veterinarian to choose the appropriate pain medication protocol for each individual patient's needs. Please feel free to discuss your pet's pain control needs with our veterinarians and technical staff.

### Q: Is pain medication safe?

**A:** Any medication, whether it be pain medication, antibiotics or anesthetics has the potential for side effects. At Packerland Veterinary Center, we take every precaution available to provide the pain medication best suited to your pet's needs with the least amount of complication. Knowing your pet's health history and having current laboratory values are just two of the ways we can accomplish this.