

## Pre-Operatory Bloodwork

- Basic bloodwork allows us to have a complete picture as to the underlying health of our patient.
- Like human patients, indicators in the blood can show subclinical disease that cannot be detected with a physical exam alone. This helps us to have the full picture of a pet's health prior to general anesthesia.
- Bloodwork in a clinically healthy dog or cat acts as a baseline for future bloodwork (a basis of comparison for the future).
- Bloodwork in a sick patient can help us to better prepare and have a successful outcome from anesthesia and necessary surgical procedures.
- **WCVS recommends pre-operative bloodwork for every patient undergoing general anesthesia.**

## Common Surgical Procedures

### *Cat Neuter*

A cat neuter is generally a straightforward procedure. Two incisions are made over the testicle and the testicles are removed. Typically these incision lines are left open to heal. Most males recover in 1-2 days from this procedure and experience very little swelling or discharge.

### *Cat Spay*

Cat spays are a more invasive surgery than a cat neuter. An incision is made into the abdomen and the ovaries and uterus are surgically removed. This is a sterile procedure performed in our surgical suite. Three layers of suture close the incision line and skin sutures are removed 10-14 days after surgery. Recovery takes around 2 weeks, and cats should be kept quiet and clean during that time. Pain relief is highly recommended post-operatively.

### *Cat Declaw*

Cat declaws are an invasive surgery that involves an incision made around the claw. The claw and nail bed are surgically removed. This is a sterile procedure performed in our surgical suite. Typically no sutures are placed; rather, tissue glue is used to close the incision line. Recovery takes as little as 14 days and as long as several months. Use special kitty litter supplied by the clinic post-operatively to help keep the incisions clean and dry. Local nerve blocks are performed during surgery and oral pain relief is highly recommended post-operatively.

### *Dog Neuter*

A dog neuter involves one incision through which both testicles are removed. This is a sterile procedure performed in our surgical suite. Often we place sutures under the skin so that there are no skin sutures to remove. Recovery takes around 10 days, and dogs should be kept from licking the incision line during that time. Pain relief is recommended post-operatively.

## ***Dog Spay***

Dog spays are an invasive surgery that involves an incision made into the abdomen. The ovaries and uterus are surgically removed. This is a sterile procedure performed in our surgical suite. Three layers of suture close the incision line and skin sutures are removed 10-14 days after surgery. Recovery takes around 2 weeks, and dogs should be kept quiet and clean during that time. Do not allow your pet to jump, run or play rough during recovery as this can pull on the sutures and prolong healing time. Pain relief is highly recommended post-operatively.

## ***Soft Tissue Surgery***

Soft tissue surgery can include anything from wound repairs to mass removals. This type of procedure typically involves general anesthesia and an overnight stay in the hospital.

## ***Orthopedic (Bone & Joint) Surgery***

Orthopedic surgery at WCVS includes bone repair with plates and pins, knee stabilization surgery, luxating patella repairs, and other surgeries involving the skeleton.