



Dr. Mulder is the owner and medical director of the Pet Hospital, located at 403 Fairview Drive in Brantford. While treating the 'whole' patient, his experience in emergency medicine, nutrition and 20 years as a general practitioner, allows him to lead the team as they serve the client, helping to meet all their pets' needs. This advice column is provided to help loving pet owners to make decisions in the care of their pet. If you have a question for Dr. Mulder, please send an email to drmulder@fairviewpet.ca or call the Pet Hospital at 519-753-7257.

*Health Care
Isn't Just For Humans!*

DR. MULDER TALKS PET CARE SURGICAL COSTS

Q Dear Dr. Mulder:
I've been shopping for a cat spay.
How much would you charge to spay my cat?

Dr. Mulder: It is important to plan ahead for costs, but it is not wise to make decisions for your pet's major surgery based on price alone. The spay or neuter surgery quoted at different veterinary facilities does not always include the same procedures. It is important to compare apples to apples. Regulations from the

College of Veterinarians of Ontario prevent me from publishing my fees here. I will, however, try to help you in your comparison shopping so that your pet gets the medical procedures she needs without undo risk or pain. Your pet deserves the best! As you shop around make sure that the "options" presented to you are truly "optional." In my opinion, the following procedures are essentials.

A thorough preoperative examination is needed to find any medical issues that would increase the risk of anesthesia or surgery. In addition, problems that may require surgical intervention can be identified so that your pet gets everything looked after under one anesthetic. Teething problems, umbilical hernias, eye lid defects, nose fold blockages and loose dewclaws can be repaired at the time of a spay or neuter.

During anesthesia we manage many bodily functions. To minimize risk and be prepared for even rare inherited defects, we need to know as much as possible about your pet. Pre-anesthetic blood work should assess the internal organ function (liver and kidneys), immune system, and most importantly of all, the blood clotting system! Hemophiliacs must be identified before surgery!

IV fluids during anesthesia protects the liver, kidneys and brain. Monitoring of anesthesia and heart function is absolutely critical to be able to respond to any crisis that may occur and an IV access allows emergency drugs to be given in a timely manner. Without the IV, precious time is wasted. Many anesthetics now allow patients to go home on the same day of surgery. Pain control should be standard, but again, the cost for this is not always included in quotations. No pet should experience pain after an elective surgery and some pets have a particularly low pain tolerance. Ensure that your quotation includes the appropriate level of pain control for your pet.

The surgery itself is a major abdominal procedure. During surgery, there are differing medical approaches that can affect speed of your pet's healing and the costs. While some surgeons prefer laser surgery, this can slow healing and may affect the fees you are charged. Buried skin stitches can speed healing and reduce itchiness and licking during recovery. Choose the best medical approach for your pet, not the least costly!

Fairview Drive Pet Hospital

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