Neutering

- Neuter - The word comes from Latin and means "of neither sex" and neutering is the removal of an animal's reproductive organs.
- Neutering is done under general anaesthetic.
- Your pet will be given a sedative before the operation to ensure that the anaesthetic goes as smoothly as possible.
- Once sedated, a small area on one or both front limbs may be clipped (shaved) so that the veterinarian may have intravenous access to administer the anaesthetic or any other medication that is required.
- Once under anaesthetic the surgical site will be clipped and then thoroughly cleansed with a sterile surgical scrub. Surgical drapes are used so that only the surgical site is exposed.

Castration

- Castration is the removal of both testes (testicles).
- In dogs this is usually done with a single small incision on the dog's underside just in front of the scrotum.
- In cats this is usually done with 2 incisions into each side of the scrotum. In most cases stitches are not required.

Spaying

- Spaying is a term reserved for females.
- The operation involves removal of the ovaries and uterus (ovario-hysterectomy).
- Surgery is usually performed through an incision either on the flank (side), or on the underside of the belly. The incision size varies depending upon the surgeon and the size, species and age of the animal. Accordingly the sutures (stitches) may be traditional stitches on the outside; or stitches on the inside that may or may not need to be removed.

After the operation

- Your pet will have significant analgesia (pain relief) and maybe antibiotics at the time of the operation and may or may not need one or both of these medicines to go home with.
- As with any operation, your pet may be uncomfortable after the surgery. We would not normally expect this to be for more than a few days, usually less.
- We would normally expect you to bring your pet in 2 or 3 days after the operation for a check up.
- If there are stitches that need removing these are normally removed after 10 days.