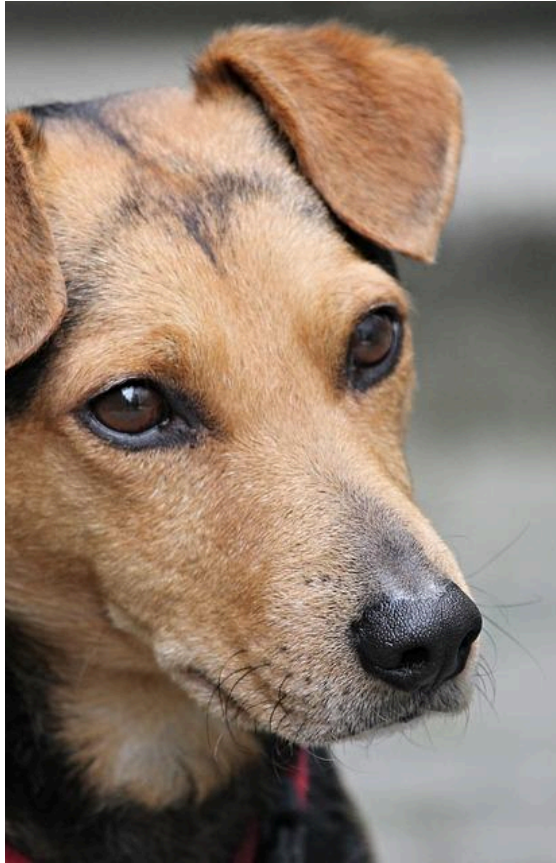


A Big Day

Through the Eyes of your Best Friend



A very special day is arriving soon! I will have my neuter surgery at Highland Veterinary Clinic. This surgery will help protect me against some male cancers, behavioral problems and help prevent unplanned pregnancies. The whole procedure is pretty neat – this is how my friends at HVC tell me the day will go...

After I Arrive All Eyes Are On Me!

My day will start early in the morning after you drop me off. The veterinary assistant will screen my history to get to know me a little better and they'll ask you some questions about how I've been feeling at home lately. The veterinary nurse in charge of my case will check my weight, temperature, heart-rate, respiration rate, and my color in my mouth. If there is any reason for concern, they'll ask to draw my blood and run tests to ensure my safety throughout anesthesia. They will be one step ahead of the doctor with the vitals exam and any results ready to be looked over once they arrive. The tests they might run include a CBC and a chemistry panel to check for infection and to check the health of my internal organs if there is any cause for concern.

Next, the doctor will give me a pre-anesthetic exam and listen to my heart and lungs to make sure there haven't been any changes since my last visit. When the doctor gives the "OK," a veterinary nurse, technician or assistant will give me something that will make me feel sorta sleepy. When I am all relaxed, the veterinary nurse and an assistant will come and put a tiny tube in my arm called a catheter, in case I need fluids or supportive care during my surgery. The support staff members at are very gentle and it won't really hurt at all! Everyone at HVC is so nice and they will stay with me the whole time and tell me what a good boy I am being.

When I'm On Deck

Then my doctor will come and tell me that I am going to get some medicine that will make me feel very sleepy and that when I wake up in a little while, the surgery will be over. They tell me that I will be watched by a technician while the doctor is performing the surgery and that they will have monitors that will check my heart rate and rhythm (an EKG), the oxygen levels in my blood and how strong my pulse is (a pulse oximeter) and if I am breathing OK. The doctor will give me a breathing tube in my mouth for oxygen and anesthetic gas. I will even have a special cloud positioner which will keep me warm, toasty and from being sore during surgery! Then it's time!

I'll Get Lots of Attention

The doctor will give me an anesthetic in the catheter and I will slowly drift to sleep. To me, it will only seem like I am asleep a few minutes! My team will stay with me the whole time, from when I'm dropped off, throughout the surgery, and while I am waking up-. They will be there to tell me what a good job I am doing and how everything is going to be OK. I won't care, though, because I think whatever they give me to make me sleepy, makes me feel really happy too. It will make me feel like I don't care about anything and I won't feel any pain at all! It's great!!

After the surgery is done, they will let me rest with them until I want to walk around. Then I will be able to rest in my "suite." It's

nice because I will probably still be groggy and all I will want to do is sleep. They have warm, cozy blankets there and they understand all my comfort needs. Later on, my nurse will be back to check on me and look to make sure my incision is in good shape to report to the doctor. It won't be long before I'll be going home! I'm glad you scheduled a time to pick me up so that you can ask any questions you need to--I don't want you to worry. The doctor, nurse or my dedicated assistant will call you and tell you the surgery went well. I'm sure you will miss me while I am away.

When We Go Home

There are a few rules our team wants us to follow when we get home:

- (1) No jumping, running or roughhousing for a week after surgery.
- (2) Watch for any bleeding or discharge from my surgery site.
- (3) Make sure that I eat OK for the next week. If I don't eat for 2 days in a row - call the hospital.
- (4) No bathing or swimming for 10 days.
- (5) Come back for suture removal or courtesy site recheck in 10-14 days,.
- (6) Call 812-867-6652 if there are any problems or questions at all. My doctor wants to hear about your concerns.

So that is how my big day will go! Everyone at Highland Veterinary Clinic is so nice to me and will make me feel special. They said I am welcome anytime!

