



At our clinic, every pet gets the X-Care treatment. This is a highly effective examination and follow-up process, tailored to the changing needs of a pet at the different stages in their life, and ensures every pet receives the highest standard of health care.

“State of the art surgical care for your pet”

Keeping our pets safe is a very important part of being a responsible owner. Their safety includes their health, including reproductive health, shelter, a safe place to exercise, and increasingly, proper identification in case they should become lost. The first section below is about desexing female pets and the use of safe anaesthetics, surgical procedures and post operative care. If a pet is not intended for breeding then de-sexing is recommended for many reasons, including prevention of health problems later in life. The other stories are about microchipping – the insertion of a tiny device the size of a grain of rice that can be electronically scanned to identify your pet should they ever become lost.



Ovariohysterectomy - High tech desexing surgery for your pet

Ovariohysterectomy (spaying) is the removal of both of the ovaries and uterus via a very small incision in the abdomen. Although quite a common and non life threatening operation, it is a relatively complicated and highly technical surgical procedure.

Your pet can be spayed at any age, although preferably, between 3 and 6 months, and she will usually be home the same day. The advantages include no unwanted litters, no male cats or dogs sitting at your doorstep, elimination of mammary tumours in later life and no bloody discharge when in season.

In this article we follow the procedure with Chloe, the German Shepherd.



Chloe has a full clinical examination prior to her anaesthetic. Some owners also elect to have preanaesthetic blood testing for their pet at this stage.



Full clinical examination prior to surgery

The drugs put into Chloe's intravenous line to induce anaesthesia are carefully selected appropriate to her weight and age. She is also given drugs for pain relief so she is comfortable on her way home.



Endotracheal tube in place

Once asleep, Chloe has an endotracheal tube inserted, and is taken through to surgery where she is linked to the anaesthetic machine.

Chloe has an intravenous line in place through which she receives fluids to keep her blood pressure stable during surgery. This also means we can give drugs quickly in the case of an anaesthetic problem.



The anaesthetic machine and infusion pump which delivers her intravenous fluids

The site is clipped and prepared so it is sterile prior to surgery.

The veterinary surgeon scrubs and wears a hat, mask, sterile gown, and gloves. Sterile drapes are put in place and sterile equipment used for the procedure.

Surgery begins. The skin and subcutaneous tissues are incised (cut open), followed by the abdominal wall.

As well as the surgeon, a veterinary nurse is present throughout the procedure to monitor and alter the depth of the anaesthetic.

The reproductive tract has been isolated and each ovary is surgically ligated (tied).



Surgery begins...



The uterine body is clamped...

The uterine body is now clamped and ligated. In a larger breed, mature dog such as Chloe, several blood vessels in the ligaments supporting these structures have also been carefully ligated to ensure there is no bleeding after surgery.



...and ligated

After all surgery is checked, the abdominal wall, then subcutaneous tissue and skin are sutured.

Surgery is complete.



Subcutaneous tissue and skin are sutured

Chloe has her catheter removed and, as she starts to wake up, is taken off the anaesthetic machine. The nurse will stay with her and only remove her endotracheal tube when she can swallow to prevent any chance for post-anaesthetic vomiting from entering the lungs. Chloe

will then be placed back in her warm hospital bed for recovery.

Chloe is home the same day with some post-operative pain relief and written instructions on post-surgery care. A happy, healthy Chloe returns two weeks after the operation for a post surgery checkup and to have her stitches removed.



A nurse stays with Chloe until she is awake

X-Care Microchipping your pets

New legislation requires all dogs first registered on or after 1 July 2006 to be microchipped.

What is a Microchip?

A Microchip is a small tube about the size of a grain of rice that has a 15 digit code embedded. The code on the chip is then recorded on a database, along with the owner's name and address. These details can be updated if the owners change or move house.

How is the Microchip inserted?

It is introduced to the pet by an injection, like a routine vaccination. The chip is sterile and will stay under the skin surface, between the shoulder blades, for the rest of the animal's life.

Why Microchip?

Reasons for "chipping" animals to provide permanent identification include international travel and to establish ownership if injured, lost or stolen. Chipper's testimonial relates his microchipping happy ending.

We are currently microchipping many pets and routinely scan all stray pets for microchips. Please ask to see a demonstration on your next visit.



Chipper's happy ending

Hi! My name is 'Chipper', and I'm an active and inquisitive 2 year old dog. I live with my owners - there's Dad, Mum, and their three kids. There's also 'Mickey' the cat - the biggest tease you could imagine - but I've learnt to ignore a lot of her antics.

When the family picked me up from the pound they had me vaccinated so I could stay healthy. At the same time I was given an injection just behind my neck, and with that a microchip was inserted under my skin. It was no worse than any other injection and to be honest I've never noticed anything different.

When they brought me home I couldn't believe how big and exciting the world suddenly seemed. I'd gone from a tiny enclosure at the pound to this giant back yard. Beyond it was a vast expanse of bush. That afternoon I set out to explore it all. The trouble was I soon got lost. I spent two days and nights wandering the bush, trying to find my way home. I was tired, cold, hungry and miserable.

I was finally picked up and taken back to the pound. As quick as a flash, the nice girl at the pound waved some magic scanner over the back of my neck. My microchip registered and pretty soon she looked up the computer database and found my family's address and phone number. They arrived quickly - boy it was great to see them again! Without my 'chip' who knows what would of happened to me. So from that day they called me 'Chipper'.

I can't tell you how great it was to get home again - all thanks to some pretty amazing human technology. They're pretty clever those humans. I decided to not be so adventurous for quite a while.

I must admit there was one problem when I got back home. It was that smug, withering look that Mickey gave me. Unfortunately she's got a Microchip too!