



KANWAL

Veterinary Hospital

5 (Lot 2) Wiowera Road, Kanwal, NSW 2259 (opposite Kanwal school)

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Additional costs that may be incurred during a desexing procedure

The majority of desexing procedures that we perform are relatively straightforward, with no unexpected findings. However, occasionally we may come across a number of things that ideally should be addressed on the day. Below is a list of the most common potential findings, and what impact they may have on your pet and on us as surgeons.

Having increased adipose (fat) tissue....

Excess intra-abdominal fat impacts the surgeon in a number of ways. It makes it much more difficult to see and access vital structures within the abdomen, it creates a very oily, slippery environment to work within, and it contains a lot of small blood vessels, which can increase the risk of bleeding during and after surgery. Excess fat can also affect the speed at which drugs are metabolised, which can impact the stability and predictability of the anaesthetic procedure and the level of monitoring required. It is important to note that even though an animal may look quite lean on the outside, they can still have an excess of fat on the inside!

Being a mature age (i.e. 2+ years old)....

Desexing mature female dogs is a much larger, more complicated surgery than puppies due to the reproductive tract being well developed and highly vascular, leading to an increased risk of bleeding during and after surgery. Additionally, the reproductive tissues may be less "elastic", making it more difficult to access the areas where we need to work. We now recommend the ideal age of desexing based on breed size, but even giant breeds dogs (such as Great Danes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, etc.) should ideally be desexed before they reach 2 years of age.

Being in season / on heat....

When a dog is in season, there is an increase in blood supply to the uterus and ovaries, increasing the risk of bleeding during and after surgery. Reproductive tissues tend to be more friable (fragile), which makes them more susceptible to tearing and can result in knots pulling through causing more bleeding. It can be a stressful surgery made worse in large breed dogs, those with a deep chest, and overweight dogs. Taking the necessary steps to reduce the risk of complications usually results in a prolonged surgery time.

Being pregnant....

Umm, this one pretty much goes without saying!



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Having hindlimb dewclaws....

Often, rear dewclaw removal is recommended as they tend to get caught on things, causing injury. They can either be attached by skin only (relatively simple to remove) or have a bony attachment (more difficult to remove). It is important to note that front dewclaws are not routinely removed as they are more firmly & closely attached, and therefore do not experience the same problems as often as rear dewclaws.

Having retained deciduous teeth....

At around 3 months of age, puppies and kittens will start to lose their deciduous (baby) teeth, all being slowly replaced by the adult teeth by around 6 months of age. Sometimes the roots of the baby teeth do not disappear, and instead of the deciduous tooth being replaced by the permanent tooth, the two teeth are crowded together trying to fit in the mouth in the same position. This can result in abnormal positioning of the adult tooth, as well as an increased risk of developing periodontal disease through life. It is therefore recommended that any retained deciduous teeth are removed at the time of desexing.

Having an umbilical hernia....

An umbilical hernia is a protrusion of fat, or sometimes part of an abdominal organ, through a small opening in the abdominal muscles. Most umbilical hernias pose no health threats, however, in some cases, a portion of the intestines or other tissues can be trapped and become strangulated (blood flow is cut off to the tissue, causing its death). This is an emergency requiring immediate surgery. In order to remove the risk of future problems, we recommend repairing umbilical hernias at the time of desexing.

Having retained testes....

The testes develop near the kidneys within the abdomen and normally descend into the scrotum by two months of age. In some animals this may occur later, but rarely after six months of age. Cryptorchidism is when one or both testes fail to reach their destination. Animals with a retained testicle are more likely to develop a testicular tumour (cancer) in the retained testicle. The surgical technique required to remove the testicle depends on where it is found – either within the abdomen, at the inguinal ring (within the muscle of the abdominal wall), or subcutaneous (under the skin).

In the event that any of the above issues are discovered during your pet's stay, we will endeavour to contact you immediately to discuss the matter and any associated costs. If you have any questions relating to this information, please contact us on 4392 2088 or via kanwalvet@kanwalvet.com.au.