



Chillicothe Animal Clinic, Inc.

"Your Other Family Doctors"™

1100 Eastern Avenue • Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 • (740)773-4133

Pet-Proofing Your Home

Kittens and puppies are lively and curious, which can get them into serious trouble. Remember that your young friend sees everything from a much lower vantage point than you and may be attracted to things you do not see while standing up.

It's impossible to totally pet-proof your home against accidents, but here are some recommendations:

- Securely screen all windows to help prevent falls. Keep your pet off balconies, upper porches, and high decks.
- Securely store cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, bleach, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, fertilizer, disinfectants, mothballs, roach and rat poisons, medications, and antifreeze. Make sure you keep these in tightly closed areas to which your pet cannot gain access. Keep all cabinet doors locked securely.
- Remove poisonous houseplants, or place them in hanging baskets completely out of reach of all pets.
- Some plants that are poisonous include Amaryllis, English Ivy, Narcissus, Dieffenbachia, Mistletoe, Poinsettia, Holly, Philodendron, Azalea, Rhododendron, Daffodil, Foxglove, Bleeding Heart, Iris, Ivy, Oleander, Rubber Plant, Tobacco, Tulip, Clematis, Morning Glory, and Weeping Fig.
- Keep toilet lids down. Pets may decide to play in the water and the lid could close and trap them.
- Toilet bowl cleaners are also harmful if swallowed.
- Store plastic bags where pets cannot get inside them and suffocate or chew/tear them and swallow bits of plastic. Plastic six-pack holders used for packaging beverages should also be cut apart to prevent possible strangulation in small pets.
- Keep exposed electrical cords as short as possible or tack them against a baseboard so your pet cannot chew or play with them.
- Never give your pet any medication without first consulting your veterinarian. Never use over the counter products on pets without first checking with your veterinarian. Veterinarians are the true pet experts. Guard against potential exposure to human medications. Even in small doses, aspirin, acetaminophen, diet pills, sleeping pills, and tranquilizers can all be fatal to your pet.
- Keep all dresser drawers, trunks, and closets closed. Always check to see where your pet is before closing refrigerator doors, the oven, washer, or dryer.
- Always be sure your pet is secure before leaving them alone. We strongly recommend the pet to be confined in a crate for the first few months
- If your pet is allowed outdoors, always be sure to blow your horn and bang on the car hood before starting and moving your vehicle. Kittens especially like to crawl under the hood to keep warm.
- Keep sewing supplies out of your pet's reach. Buttons, needles, pins, and thread can hurt their mouth or cause intestinal obstructions if swallowed. The same goes for nails, staples, crews, brads, ear plugs, and aluminum can tabs.
- Do not use electric blankets for your pet's bedding.
- Never put anything other than an appropriate-sized collar around a pet's neck. Ribbons can easily choke your pet if they should get caught on anything.

Spaying or Neutering Your Pet



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence



Chillicothe Animal Clinic, Inc.

"Your Other Family Doctors"™

1100 Eastern Avenue • Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 • (740)773-4133

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying the female patient. It is a surgical procedure which removes both the ovaries and uterus. In the dog and cat, one of the major reasons for performing the sterilization surgery is to eliminate the annoying "signs of heat" which cause males to be attracted. If the uterus alone was removed, the pet would still come into heat but could not get pregnant. Removal of both the ovaries and uterus completely eliminate the annoying signs of the female patient's heat cycle.

Castration is the medical term for surgically sterilizing the male patient. The testicles are removed because they are the major source of male hormones which cause sexual interest, aggression, and urine marking of territory. Therefore, neutering the male patient provides significant advantage to the pet owner, as well as eliminating the ability to produce unwanted offspring and decreasing the risk of future medical problems such as testicular cancer, prostate enlargement, and infection.

Prior to surgery, all patients receive a pre-anesthetic physical examination. Any potential problems found result in a phone call to you and are thoroughly discussed at that time. Just as your own doctor would never take you to surgery without first running blood tests, we recommend a pre-surgical blood screening which can detect many potential problems. This is an optional way you can increase the anesthesia safety for your pet.

The procedures are performed under general anesthesia. The pet sleeps painlessly through the entire surgical procedure. Anesthesia choices used in our clinic are similar to those used in humans undergoing major surgery. We choose anesthesia to make surgery as safe as possible for patients of all ages.

Surgery is performed in an operating room equipped with heart and respiratory monitors, emergency equipment, oxygen and ventilation equipment, cauterization equipment, and modern surgical instruments. All surgery is performed using sterile gloves, surgical gown, surgical mask, and surgical cap; no one is permitted in the operating room during surgery without a surgical mask and cap and no one is permitted to assist with surgery unless also wearing a gown and gloves. Surgical instrument packs are never used on more than one animal without re-sterilization. As a member of the **American Animal Hospital Association**, we are committed to quality and safety; we maintain high standards for both anesthesia and surgical procedures.

After surgery, each patient is carefully monitored by our staff until fully awake and stable. No patient is dismissed from the hospital until we are satisfied that they are fully recovered from anesthesia.

There is little home-care required after discharge; patients usually go home the same day the surgery is performed and home care instructions will be provided when your pet is discharged.

It is important to know that your pet's safety is a priority; if you choose surgery somewhere else, make sure to ask what the surgery includes and tour their facility. **Spaying and neutering is a one-time procedure for your pet. Make sure you get it done right!**

Spay and Neuter Facts



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence



Chillicothe Animal Clinic, Inc.

"Your Other Family Doctors"™

1100 Eastern Avenue • Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 • (740)773-4133

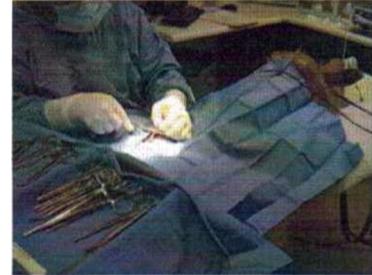
All pets should be spayed or neutered for many reasons:

1. Females (Ovariohysterectomy)

- a. Prevents signs of estrus (heat)
- b. Decreases surplus of puppies and kittens
- c. Decreases the chance of developing mammary tumors later in life
- d. Decreases the chance of cystic ovaries and uterine infections

2. Males (Castration)

- a. Decreases the desire to roam the neighborhood
- b. Decreases aggression- become more loving pets
- c. Decreases incidence of prostate enlargement and infection
- d. Prevents the odor of tomcat urine
- e. Reduces pets from "marking their territory" and spraying urine



3. Your community will also benefit

Unwanted animals are a big concern. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance; soiling parks and streets, ruining shrubs, frightening children or elderly people, creating noise and other disturbances, causing automobile accidents, and sometimes even killing livestock or other pets. As a potential source of rabies and other diseases, they can become a public health hazard. The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals will cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

4. Facts about spaying and neutering

- a. Spaying and neutering do not cause your pet to be fat or lazy; that comes from overfeeding and poor exercise
- b. Personalities are not negatively altered after the surgery
- c. Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and surgical techniques; there is always a small risk when anesthesia is used
- d. It is much easier to spay an animal before they go through a heat cycle due to the smaller size of the reproductive tract

It is best to spay or neuter your pet between 6 and 8 months of age



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence



Chillicothe Animal Clinic, Inc.

"Your Other Family Doctors"™

1100 Eastern Avenue • Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 • (740)773-4133

What Diseases Should My Dog be protected against?

Many serious diseases can be prevented by vaccination. Even if always kept indoors, your dog can be exposed to viruses carried in the air, dust, or on clothing. Vaccination is inexpensive protection against costly treatment or premature death of your pet. Booster immunizations are necessary to continue protection.

Canine Distemper Virus is a highly contagious virus, which affects the respiratory and nervous systems causing fever, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and eventually death.

Canine Adenovirus causes highly contagious respiratory diseases leading to a dry hacking cough. It is very serious in young puppies and can lead to a more severe pneumonia.

Canine Parvovirus is a highly contagious and causes severe vomiting and diarrhea, often leading to death. It affects dogs of all ages, puppies most severely. Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, excessive thirst, weight loss, listlessness, and loss of appetite.

Leptospirosis is an important disease because it can be transmitted to people and some other animals, and can cause severe kidney and liver damage.

Rabies vaccine is required by law because it is a fatal disease that can be transmitted to humans and has no cure. The vaccine is given between 12 and 16 weeks of age and then boosted in one year, after which time boosters are given every three years.

Lyme vaccine protects against Lyme disease, a potentially serious tick borne illness. Symptoms are lameness, anorexia, stiffness, joint pain/swelling, fevers, and depression.

Bordetella vaccine is strongly recommended, especially if your dog will have exposure to other dogs such as at training classes, shows, boarding kennels, or the groomer. The vaccine is required at most boarding kennels in our area.

Heartworm testing and prevention is essential to your dog's health and preventive care. Even with vaccines and preventive medications, there is always the possibility that your dog could contract heartworms. Yearly testing will help assure you that your dog is healthy. For added piece of mind, our annual test also checks for Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Lyme disease, three disorders that are contracted from certain ticks. Monthly heartworm prevention is available for any dog that has had a current heartworm test. Heartworm prevention not only helps prevent heartworms, but also helps the prevention of several intestinal parasites.



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence