



Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society Spay-Neuter Assistance Program Animal Eligibility Requirements

The Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society would like to thank you for your interest in having your pet spayed or neutered. The clinic at our Animal Hospital is a high-volume, high-quality spay-neuter (HVHQSN) clinic. This type of clinic is designed to provide means to control pet overpopulation using efficient surgical procedures, while still offering a high standard of medical care. Due to the nature of these procedures, the HVHQSN service is not appropriate for all patient types, as we may not be able to provide the extra level of attention or care required by these animals. For more information about how our clinic differs from your local veterinary clinic, please see our FAQs.

Please read the following information to see if your pet qualifies for services at our Animal Hospital.

Animals that ARE eligible for spay-neuter services:

- Healthy adult cats under 7 years of age and healthy adult dogs under 5 years of age
- Healthy kittens and puppies that are over four months of age
- Female cats that are in heat, or healthy pregnant cats

Animals that are NOT eligible for spay-neuter services:

- Animals under 4 months of age, cats over 7 years of age, or dogs over 5 years of age
- Unhealthy animals, or animals demonstrating any signs of contagious illness
- Very overweight (obese) or underweight pets (Body condition scores 1-2/9 or 8-9/9)
 - If you are unsure if your pet is an appropriate body weight, please contact us to discuss
- Pregnant dogs, nursing cats or dogs
- Dogs that are currently in heat, or have been in heat within the last 6-8 weeks
- Large breed female dogs weighing over 40kg
- Animals under six months of age with retained testicles (over 6 months of age may be done at the veterinarian's discretion with an additional fee)
- Short ("smushed") faced brachycephalic dog breeds including but not limited to English Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pekingese, and Pugs; or cat breeds Persian or Himalayan.
 - Please note that some additional breeds may present as more brachycephalic than others (ie. Boxers, Boston Terriers, Shih Tzus, other Bulldogs) and may not be eligible for surgery at our veterinarian's discretion. If you are concerned that your dog may not be eligible, please contact us ahead of time to discuss – we may require a photo to evaluate your dog.

Special Considerations:

- Certain breeds may be predisposed to certain medical conditions that are not ideal for HVHQSN services. If you have one of these breeds we strongly recommend you speak to your veterinarian about these concerns prior to applying for our services:
 - Deep chested dog breeds including Great Danes, Standard Poodles, Weimaraners, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Dobermans due to risk of gastric dilation volvulus (GDV)
 - Dobermans due to risk of Von Willebrands disease – we require these dogs to be tested for von Willebrands prior to surgery, please discuss with your regular veterinarian
 - FIV and feline leukemia positive cats – will be considered if in good health

We reserve the right to deny surgery to any patient deemed to be a poor candidate for services at our veterinarian's discretion.