

## What do I need to know before the day?

- This is a desexing and microchipping program for cats **only**
  - We are unable to provide any other medical services or treatments for your animal.
- You must be an Onkaparinga council resident.
  - You will be required to provide proof of address on the day
- Your cat must be at least 1kg and at least 3 months of age to be eligible. Senior animals will be assessed on a case by case basis for suitability for general anaesthesia and desexing.
- Cats under 6 months of age **MUST** have had a **complete** course of vaccinations at least 14 days prior to desexing
- We **STRONGLY** recommend adults cats are vaccinated at least 14 days prior to desexing due to the increasing prevalence of feline parvovirus in the community
- Please arrive at the designated time. You will receive a text message reminder the day before.
  - Running late? We will do our best to accommodate you but we cannot guarantee that we can fit you in on the same day.
  - Unable to attend your appointment? Please cancel your appointment as per the instructions in your reminder text message or booking confirmation email
- Please make sure you have a secure pet carrier to transport your cat.
- You must be at least 18 years of age and the guardian of the animal that you are presenting for surgery. Please bring photo identification.
- Please make sure that your cat does not have any food on the day of the surgery.
  - Access to water is fine.
  - If your cat is on any regular medication please bring this information along with you.
- If your cat is unwell in any way (e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, cat flu, ringworm) please cancel your appointment and reschedule when your cat is healthy.
  - Sick animals will not be accepted for surgery.
- See the attached map for where to go when you arrive at the shelter
- Please be aware that you will be required to comply with all COVID-19 related regulations. For this reason **ONLY** one person per animal.

## What should I expect on the day?

- Please be aware that there will be a wait to admit your cat for surgery.

- This program is a mass desexing model where our vets may see up to 50 animals per day. Our aim is to provide this service to as many people as possible. For this reason, you will not be able to have a consultation with our veterinary team but our friendly admissions team will talk you through the process when you arrive.
- Your cat will have a general anaesthetic to be desexed. There are inherent risks with this procedure.
  - Our veterinary team will assess your pet's suitability for anaesthesia on the day of surgery. If we determine that the anaesthetic risk is unreasonably high we will recommend delaying or cancelling the procedure.
  - Our skilled vets desex over 3000+ animals a year and will take every precaution to ensure the safety of each animal being desexed.
  - You will be required to sign an anaesthetic consent form on the day of surgery.
  - You will be required to sign a feline parvovirus waiver identifying that the risk has been explained to you and that you accept this risk.
- Desexing is a day procedure. Your animal will be ready to go home after 2pm.
  - You will receive a text message or phone call when your animal is ready for collection.
  - Last collection time is at 4:30pm
  - Please note that overnight stays incur a fee of \$110

## **What happens when I take my animal home?**

You will receive post-operative instructions on how to care for your pet after surgery.

In most cases your animal will have dissolvable stitches. In some cases they may not be dissolvable and you may have to return at a later date to have the sutures removed at no cost.

Your cat's microchip details will be registered in your name with 'Dogs and Cats Online' <https://dogsandcatsonline.com.au/>. This means that if your cat ever goes missing their microchip can be scanned and they can be returned to you. There are no fees for owning cats in your council area and there is no limit to the number of cats that you can own.

We ask that you do your part in taking action towards responsible cat ownership by keeping your cat indoors overnight. For more tips visit: <https://safeandhappycats.com.au/>