



Veterinary Procedures and Pricing

A guide to evaluating veterinary services





Veterinary Procedures and Pricing

Shopping around for veterinary services can possibly be a worthwhile exercise. However, there are some important considerations when deciding on the *right practice for you*.

Here is some information to help you evaluate the service offered so you can make an informed decision about the safety and comfort of your pet - as well as determine *value for money!*

Consultation

Many veterinary clinics will only allocate 10 minutes for a consultation with the vet. At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital we will allocate *a minimum of 15 minutes* so that we can develop a relationship, and even become friends, with you and your pet.

This is important so your pet feels relaxed and comfortable in the veterinary clinic setting. This will also provide enough time to get an in-depth history of your pet's lifestyle and health issues, examine your pet thoroughly, and take the time to explain the treatment plan properly.

Our consultation fee is currently \$85.

Microchipping

When a pet is microchipped, this involves placing a needle (containing the chip) under the skin between the shoulder blades. You can imagine that this would be significantly more uncomfortable than, say, the needle used for vaccination, which is comparatively quite small.

There are different sized microchips on the market. At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, we use the *smallest microchip* which is specifically designed to cause minimal discomfort to your pet. We also apply a local anaesthetic cream to your pet's skin before injecting the microchip under the skin. This cream is vital to ensuring your pet's comfort during microchipping. It will prevent your pet from becoming afraid of the vet due to the pain associated with microchipping.

The cost of microchipping at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is \$45.

Vaccination

The core vaccine for dogs is called a C5 and for cats it's an F3. There are many different brands of C5 and F3 vaccines available to veterinarians.

The C5 vaccine used by HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is called Canigen C3 and KC. This brand is extremely effective at stimulating a dog's immune system to reliably produce enough antibodies to provide protection.

All dogs and cats should have a Comprehensive Physical Examination every 12 months. Remember the 7 years to 1 rule. Many health issues have the opportunity to arise if we fail to schedule these 12 monthly examinations.

As part of this Annual Health Check, your pet will either be titre-tested to check whether their vaccination protection is adequate or your pet will be vaccinated. We'll discuss this with you at the time of your visit.

Currently the investment for a C5 vaccination for a dog (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Virus, Para Influenza virus and Bordetella) is \$95 and the cost of a F3 vaccination (Feline Enteritis and Cat Flu) for a cat is also \$95.

This includes a comprehensive health examination and consultation with the veterinarian during which he/she will discuss any abnormal physical examination findings as well as the latest preventatives for ticks, fleas and worms to ensure your loved one is adequately protected.

Desexing

The desexing operation is a fairly universal procedure across all veterinary practices. However, there is significant variation in what's included for the price.

For example, not all veterinarians will routinely administer intravenous fluid therapy during anaesthesia. EVERY patient undergoing surgery at



HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital receives intravenous fluid therapy to maintain adequate blood pressure, promote normal hydration and assist organs (such as the liver and kidneys) to metabolise anaesthetic drugs

Most practices will offer you a 'take-home pain pack' as an 'extra' which you need to pay for. At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, all patients undergoing surgery receive pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative pain relief *at NO extra charge*.

Many veterinary practices do not routinely measure blood pressure and end tidal carbon dioxide during anaesthesia. *HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital measures both of these parameters as well as oxygenation, heart rate and rhythm, respiratory rate, body temperature and depth of anaesthesia.*

Monitoring blood pressure is really important because anaesthetic agents will often reduce blood pressure and this can adversely affect all organs, particularly the kidneys.

If blood pressure readings fall below a certain level, we can combat this by increasing the rate of intravenous fluid administration or by reducing the depth of anaesthesia or both.

If blood pressure is not monitored, then how would the vet know if it is low?

Measuring end tidal carbon dioxide is essential in gauging the blood carbon dioxide level and determining if the anaesthetised patient is taking deep enough breaths. Abnormally high carbon dioxide levels can adversely affect both the brain and the cardiovascular system!

Some veterinary practices do not routinely perform a *pre-anaesthetic blood test*.

This test is quick and easy to perform and provides us with important information about your pet's blood cell count, liver/kidney health and therefore the SAFETY of the up-coming procedure and anaesthetic. These organs are involved in metabolising anaesthetic drugs so you can imagine how important it is to know that they are perfectly healthy before general anaesthesia!

Often early-stage liver or kidney disease is not detected with even the most thorough physical exam, so a blood test will give you peace of mind that everything is OK.

The cost of desexing your pet will depend on the species (dog or cat), sex (male or female) and body weight so it's best to give us a call so we can give you an exact price.

At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital the cost of desexing surgery as well as EVERY other surgical procedure includes all of the safety measures mentioned above, as well as the following:

- A warm and comfortable hospital bed separate to other animals.
- Pain relief before, during and after surgery.
- A photo sent to your mobile before starting surgery just to let you that your pet is relaxed and comfortable.
- Intravenous fluids.
- A nurse exclusively dedicated to monitoring your pet during surgery and recovery.
- Blood pressure, oxygenation and end tidal carbon dioxide monitoring.
- Our staff will call you immediately after surgery to keep you updated and make a time for you to collect your pet later that day.
- Take-home pain relief to ensure your pet has a comfortable recovery.
- A 'Recovery' collar to prevent your pet from licking the surgical wound.
- Unlimited free post-op check-ups. If you're worried, then come on in!

You can *call us any time* if you have any questions or concerns about your pet's recovery from surgery.

Desexing is *day surgery* only, so this means you can drop your pet off in the morning and have them at home that evening! We're open from 8am till 5pm on Mondays through to Friday. Because we are not fully staffed on Saturday, routine surgery is not performed on weekends.

Hopefully this information will help you make the most informed decision about who should care for your pet. If you have any unanswered questions, we're here to help, so please give us a call at **4872 1144!**

