

# What to expect ELECTIVE SURGERY



52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4

Small Animal Clinic  
306-966-7126

Large Animal Clinic  
306-966-7178

## About the VMC

Welcome to the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC), the veterinary referral centre for all of Western Canada and the teaching hospital for future veterinarians and veterinary specialists.

Our clinical team includes board-certified veterinary specialists, clinical associates and registered veterinary technologists, as well as veterinary specialists in training (residents), clinical interns and senior veterinary students. We look forward to caring for your animal and meeting you in person.

## Before Your Visit

To prepare for your visit to the VMC, please visit us online:

[vmc.usask.ca/about/new-client.php](http://vmc.usask.ca/about/new-client.php)

You will find more information about finding our location, parking, hours of operation and the Small Animal Clinic reception area.

## What to Expect

The VMC's Small Animal Clinic offers elective surgeries throughout the week (Monday to Friday). The WCVM's small animal clinical team performs routine elective surgical procedures such as feline and canine spay-neuter surgeries (including cryptorchid neuter procedures), simple umbilical hernia repairs, the removal of non-adhered canine dewclaws, and post-operative recheck examinations when necessary.

While the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) shares many similarities to other veterinary hospitals, there are some differences that may have an impact on your appointment.

- The VMC is a teaching hospital for WCVM veterinary students and for students enrolled in the veterinary technology program at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Please note that teaching takes additional time. Students participate in all aspects of examining and treating our patients under the immediate supervision of licensed veterinarians and board-certified veterinary specialists. While teaching is essential to our facility, the well-being of our patients is the highest priority for VMC clinical teams.
- The VMC's elective surgery service plays a vital role in the education of our fourth-year veterinary students, teaching them how to manage the most common types of surgeries they will deal with once they enter private practice. The service also allows students to develop their technical and communication skills — as well as their confidence — before entering the working world as competent veterinarians. As such, senior veterinary students are heavily involved with elective surgery appointments offered by the VMC.
- Given the complexity of some cases, we may need to order additional diagnostic tests or consult with others about diagnoses and treatment plans for patients. If this is the case, we will arrange an appointment for your animal to return for further testing.



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[www.usask.ca/vmc](http://www.usask.ca/vmc)

## Payment

If your animal is not hospitalized, the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre requires full payment at the time of service.

If your animal is hospitalized, half of the estimated cost is due prior to services being provided. Final payment is due at the time of discharge.

Occasionally, the hospital will mail statements to you after discharge for additional tests that were approved by you and for charges not included on the initial invoice at discharge.

The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre accepts the following payment methods:

- cash
- credit card (Visa and MasterCard)
- debit card (Interac)

**Personal cheques are not accepted.**

If you have questions about payment, call the administration office at 306-966-7103, or visit [vmc.usask.ca/about/payment.php](http://vmc.usask.ca/about/payment.php).

## For More Information

**Small Animal Clinic**  
306-966-7126  
[vmccorrespond@usask.ca](mailto:vmccorrespond@usask.ca)

## General Steps

Here's what you can expect during a routine elective surgery appointment for your pet at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre:

- You and your pet will come in first thing in the morning for a brief consultation before surgery. Please fast your pet for 12 hours before the surgical procedure.
- A veterinary student or clinician will take a comprehensive history of your pet's health and lifestyle and discuss any concerns. After this meeting, you may leave your pet with our clinical team.
- Your pet will receive a detailed physical examination in the morning. Later that day, the clinical team will perform the elective surgery. Once the procedure is complete, a student will contact you with an update on your pet's health.
- Animals typically stay overnight in the VMC's Small Animal Clinic so we can monitor their recovery from surgery. While your pet can return home the following day, it is essential that you limit your pet's activity for a duration of time to assist with healing. A student or clinician will discuss detailed home care instructions with you and provide you with a written copy of the instructions.
- The VMC provides pain medication, fluid therapy and overnight hospitalization with surgery to support optimal comfort and recovery for your pet. These costs are built into the price of surgery.
- For an additional fee, the clinical team can also microchip your pet at the time of surgery.

## Spay-Neuter Surgeries

- We generally recommend that you have companion pets spayed or neutered at approximately six months of age (before reaching sexual maturity).
- Older pets can also be safely spayed or neutered, but there are some potential risks. The clinician may recommend conducting blood work to ensure that your older pet is in good health before undergoing general anesthesia and surgery.

### General Steps, continued . . .

- Certain pets or breeds with specific health considerations may occasionally require more complex spay or neuter procedures. In these cases, we will recommend that the pet's owners consult with one of the VMC's board-certified surgical specialists. One of our receptionists can help to determine if this is recommended for you and your pet.
- The Veterinary Medical Centre works with external organizations that encourage responsible pet ownership. We accept payment vouchers for spay-neuter surgery if they are provided by the programs organized by Saskatoon SPCA and the City of Saskatoon. Additionally, our clinical team routinely works with the local SPCAs to ensure pets are spayed or neutered before they're adopted and taken to their new homes.

To book an appointment or inquire about the fees and services offered by the VMC's elective surgery service, please call and speak with one of our knowledgeable receptionists.