

**McMASTER & HEAP**  
VETERINARY PRACTICE

## HUNTLY'S EXCITING DAY OUT...

Desexing is classified as a routine, fairly fast procedure by most veterinarians but for the owner and their pet it is a big deal. It is usually the first time the client has had to leave their little baby in our trusted hands for a whole day bearing in mind its going to have an anaesthetic which if not explained properly can be very scary for the client. Many clients are reluctant to part with their pet so its our job to reassure clients, their special pet will be ready and waiting for them at the end of the day, job done.

At McMaster & Heap we consider routine surgery to be a big deal and we are very careful to explain the whole days procedure and follow up care very carefully to our clients. We don't want our patients scared off by the days' events so we are very gentle with them. Lets face it, they may be patients of ours for the next 20 years so we need to start off on the right paw!!

Often the puppies have visited the clinic before for vaccinations and puppy playschool so have "good feelings" about the practice. Running around with other puppies playing chase, getting hugs from us all and liver treats helps portray our clinic as a fun place. With the kittens we place them in a quiet space and have felivay diffusers running which naturally calm them down. If they are particularly stressed out they are often given their sedative early and cuddled by our hospital nurse.

Recently our nurse Jaimee had her puppy neutered.

Huntly has been here before so bounded through the doors.

We give our clients the options of pre anaesthetic blood testing and intravenous fluids. The blood testing can help us detect early subclinical disease like diabetes, renal or liver disease. The fluids help maintain a healthy blood pressure, help remove the anaesthetic from the body, and provide an intravenous route should we require it.

On arrival they are thoroughly checked over ( temperature, heart rate, breathing rate) by

a theatre nurse, bloods taken if required and a catheter placed for an IV line. 30 minutes before their operation they are sedated. Once anaesthetized they are connected to an anaesthetic monitoring device so the nurse can easily and accurately track how things are going.

A castration procedure takes about 30 minutes from start to finish. Basically both testicles are removed, the scrotal sac is left and there will be a small line of stitches that will require removal in 10-14 days.

We provide 2 free check ups if required. WE often send puppies home with a large lampshade (Elizabethan collar) to prevent them ripping at their stitches. We do recommend leash exercise only until the sutures are removed.

Needless to say Huntly was the "star" patient, going to sleep when told and waking up quietly and quickly. Some of our boisterous patients can be quite vocal once coming around from their anaesthetic. Lola finds it quite amusing and is often seen checking up on them.

Nearly all of the puppies we see through McMaster & Heap will be desexed as young dogs. We do recommend this procedure unless the client is keen on breeding/showing. Many serious health concerns are eliminated by desexing early on, for example mammary and testicular cancers, pyometras and prostate disease. Plus it stops unwanted pregnancies, roaming dogs and it can lessen aggressive behavior before bad habits have formed.

Early aggression in puppies though requires the help of a trained animal behaviouralist very early on and possibly medications from your vet. This sort of issue will not simply just right itself. Your puppies personality though is not affected by the operation. Definitely best to have the

discussion with your vet as we all have varying opinions on "the best time". I give my clients the option of waiting until their male dog is cocking their leg before castration – this usually occurs at 8-10 months of age.

For any more information and advice on why or when to desex, please give anyone of us a quick call at the clinic. We'd be happy to help.

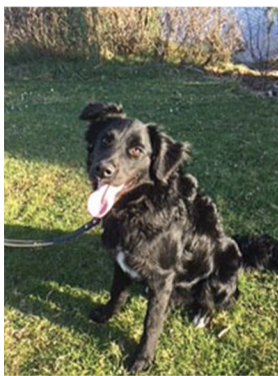
**Dr Michele McMaster**



**Michele anaesthetising Huntly.**



**Huntly waking up from his surgery.**



**Huntly enjoying some Sunday fun at the park.**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

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