

Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic

3083 Point Marion Rd
Morgantown, WV 26501
304-292-6933

www.hillcrestveterinaryclinic.com



Feline Declaw Information

*Surgery drop offs will be scheduled between 7:30am and 8:00am. Please do not feed your pet **after 6:00 PM** the night before. Water is fine up until the time of surgery. You can call and check on your pet's status **after 1:00 PM** the day of surgery, and your pet is usually ready for pickup **after 10am the next day** unless otherwise directed.*

Non-Optional Services:

Pre-Medication: A mild sedative given when the patient is admitted to help them relax and get some pain medication in their system before surgical operation is performed.

Anesthesia Induction: An induction of injectable anesthesia given by intravenous method to obtain unconsciousness to allow an endo-tracheal tube to be placed and the patient put on inhalant anesthetics.

Inhalant Gases: Isoflurane gas is a safe anesthetic gas used to maintain unconsciousness for the procedure to be performed.

Local Nerve Block: A local block will be performed under anesthesia to help reduce pain and discomfort after the patient awakes.

Declaw: This procedure consists of amputating the last digit of the toe. The surgical site is then closed with surgical glue and bandaged for the next 24 hours. The bandages are removed and the patient is assessed for any bleeding. **Limited activity is recommended for the first 5-7 days;** this includes jumping. It is advised to monitor the paws for any swelling and watch for any limping. Refraining patient from licking or chewing at the incision site is a must; they can open the incision or cause unnecessary inflammation that may need to have further medical attention.

Injectable Pain Medication: An injection of pain medication is given after the procedure has been performed to start immediate effects for inflammation reduction and post surgical pain.

Antibiotic Medication: A liquid antibiotic is dispensed to prevent any infection that can be caused by bacteria in the environment.

Elizabethan Collar: If the patient begins chewing or licking at the incision site while with us, he or she will be fitted with a collar to prevent doing so. It is also optional to the owner to request one if they feel that their pet is likely to chew or lick.

Rabies Vaccine: Rabies vaccine is required by the state so unless we have written proof that your pet is current on this vaccine it will be administered. The first vaccine can be administered at 16 weeks of age and then boosted in a year; after that it will need boosted every 3 years.

Flea Medication: If the patient has any fleas evident when brought into our clinic, we retain the right to treat the patient with a topical preventative to prevent any infestation to other patients.

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Yesterday's News: A pelleted litter that is to be used for 7-10 days post surgery. This litter is larger in size and less likely to adhere to the surgical site.

Elective Services:

Pre-Anesthetic Lab Work: Blood work to assess the organ function of the patient and can forewarn us of any organ problems. This is very important since anesthetics and pain medications are metabolized through the liver and kidneys. Even if the patient is young or otherwise appears normal, it is still an excellent choice to check the organ levels and have reference values.

PetLink Microchip: A microchip, the size of a grain of rice, is implanted between the shoulder blades of the patient. The chip can be scanned if the patient were to go missing and brought into a facility. The cost includes the first year of activation.

FELV/FIV Test (Feline): This test checks for Leukemia and Aids Viruses. They are common in cats, especially kittens, with an unknown background outside. These viruses can be life threatening and can suppress the immune system enough to cause death.

FVRCP Vaccine (Feline): Making sure that your kitten has at least 3 boosters at 3-4 week intervals gives proper immunity. If there is a lapse or not enough boosters given, proper immunity may not be obtained, putting your pet at risk. Yearly (every 12 months) boosters are recommended for continued immunity unless the veterinarian recommends otherwise. Even if they are only "inside", it is still highly recommended.

FELV Vaccine (Feline): This vaccine is highly recommended for outside kittens and cats. Making sure that your kitten has at least 2 boosters at 3-4 week intervals gives proper immunity. If there is a lapse or not enough boosters given, proper immunity may not be obtained, putting your pet at risk. Yearly (every 12 months) boosters are recommended for continued immunity unless the veterinarian recommends otherwise.

Fecal Checks: Every puppy and kitten need to be checked for intestinal parasites at least once, because all puppies and kittens have intestinal parasites. If the pet was adopted from an organization that likely de-wormed it, it is still recommended to check. Intestinal Parasites can not only be immune-suppressing, making it more complicated for a patient to recover from anesthesia and surgery, but can also increase bleeding after surgery. These parasites can also be transmitted to humans. These intestinal parasites can reside outside in the soil for a long time. Adult patients should have a fecal sample checked yearly as a preventative measure.

De-worming: Patients should receive at least 2-3 de-wormings at 3-4 week intervals to be properly de-wormed. Yearly fecal samples should be checked thereafter or every 6 months, depending upon exposure.

Preventatives: We highly recommend monthly flea, heartworm and intestinal parasite preventatives. For best results, we recommend using them every 30 days, 12 months a year. There are several different products available, tailored to you and your pet's needs.