

Was My Animal Denied?

Animals may be denied for surgery or other procedures for a variety of reasons, all in regard to your pet's safety, or the safety of other animals in our care. Due to the nature our service, we must ensure that all animals undergoing procedures are healthy, and have no issues or characteristics that could lead to an increased risk for surgical or anesthetic complication.

Should your animal be denied there may be steps you can take that will allow them to access our services at a later date. In some circumstances you may have to take your animal to a private practice veterinarian to provide them with the care they need.

Please see below for common reasons for denial and next steps on your part, if required:

Brachycephalic

Brachycephalic animals have a shortened head when compared to other breeds, they are often described as having a 'smushed' face. Due to the physical characteristics of their airway, these animals pose a higher-than-average anesthetic risk. Because of the increased risk, these animals will likely require a consult appointment prior to being considered as a surgical candidate. If at the time of booking you were unsure if your pet fell into this category, you may be denied service at the time of your surgical appointment.

If your animal is one of the breeds listed below, is mixed with one of the breeds below, or has brachycephalic characteristics we suggest you book a consult appointment with us prior to booking a surgical appointment so that we can determine if we will be able to accommodate your pet.

Brachycephalic animals can still utilize our Vaccination Services without restriction.

Examples of Brachycephalic breeds include:

- Pug
- Boston Terrier
- Bulldog
- French Bulldog
- Pekingese
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Brussels Griffon
- Lhasa Apso
- Himalayan
- Persian

Deep Chested

Great Danes are high risk for bloat (gastric dilatation and volvulus syndrome). This often-fatal condition can be surgically prevented at the time of sterilization. Please discuss the gastropexy procedure with your veterinarian.

While not denied for surgery, we urge clients with the following breeds to discuss gastropexy with their private practice veterinarian prior to booking surgery: Weimaraners, Standard Poodles, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, and Dobermans.

Animals Recently Outside of Canada

Animals that were recently outside of the country may have been exposed to infections that can be transferred to other patients in our care. Therefore we do not provide services for animals that have been outside Canada within the last 6 months.



Sick Animals

Sick animals are not ideal surgical candidates as surgical risk increases when an animal is not healthy. Sick animals can also pass on illness to other animals in our care. Until your animal is well you will not be able to access our services. If treatment is needed you must see a private practice veterinarian.

Animals Receiving Medication

Some medications can increase the chance of a surgical complication. If your animal is currently, or was recently, receiving a medication that could increase the risk of surgery they will be denied. You will be able to access our services once your animal has finished their course of treatment. If your pet does not have a communicable illness and just requires a vaccination you may be accommodated depending on what medication is being administered.

Underweight/Overweight Animals

Animals with a poor body condition have a higher surgical risk than animals with an optimal body condition. Additionally, overweight animals may require much longer surgery times due to their physical characteristics. If your animal is considerably over or underweight they will require a consult appointment and bloodwork completed prior to being considered as a surgical candidate. Please consider booking a consult appointment where we can have one of our veterinarians assess your pet's condition and determine the next steps.

Animals in good health, other than their weight, can still access our Vaccination Services without restriction.

Reproductive Status

Female animals that are currently nursing a litter will be denied for surgery. The young animals should not be separated from their mother for the length of time needed for the surgical procedure if still nursing. Additionally, the engorged mammary glands may make the spay procedure slower. If your animal was denied because they are currently nursing you may rebook once the litter has been weaned.

Dogs that are currently in heat will be denied for surgery as this can increase surgical time and complications. If your animal is denied because they are currently in heat you may rebook in six to eight weeks.

Dogs that are pregnant will be denied for surgery. You may rebook the surgery once the litter of puppies has been born and subsequently weaned. If you are not able to take on the care of the puppies, please contact our Intake Department in order to evaluate other options for their care.

Size

Female dogs over 40 kgs will require a consult appointment prior to being considered as a surgical candidate. Due to their large size the length of the surgical procedure will be longer than average, and therefore not suitable for high volume surgical days. Please consider booking a consult appointment where we can have one of our veterinarians assess your pet's condition and determine the next steps.

Adult canines less than 2.5 kg (Teacup breeds) will also require a surgical consult appointment prior to being considered as a candidate for surgery. Very small animals are more likely to become cold and/or develop low blood sugar when undergoing a surgical procedure and are therefore not always suitable for our services.



Age

Animals over the age of seven years will require a consult appointment and bloodwork completed prior to being considered as a surgical candidate. At seven years of age these animals are now considered to be seniors, and with age comes the increased likelihood for underlying disease. These animals should have pre-anesthetic bloodwork completed and increased anesthetic support during surgery.

Kittens under the age of four months (or weighing less than 1kg) will be denied for surgery. Puppies under the age of ten weeks (or weighing less than 2.5kg) will be denied for surgery. Very young animals require more surgical support than can be offered through our services.

