What’s the Difference?

Lanark Leeds and Grenville Spay/Neuter Clinic

What’s the difference between spay and neuter clinics and regular full-service veterinary clinics?

This is a question we hear all the time. Let’s outline the major differences so you can make the right decision for your pet.

* Low-cost does not mean low care. Our licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians are fully qualified to asses, treat and care for your pets. These professionals have all worked in multiple veterinary clinics, as well as spay and neuter clinics. Their skills do not change depending on what building they are working in.
* Spay/Neuter clinics only do one thing, and that’s spay and neuter your pets. When you only do one thing, you become very efficient at it. The staff know exactly what to do and how to do it, they work well together, and they can usually perform spay and neuter surgeries more efficiently than a full-service veterinary clinic can. This means they can perform more surgeries per day, and that the animals are under anesthetic for a shorter period of time. This is better for the animal as anaesthesia can cause complications.
* Spay/Neuter clinics see young, healthy animals. These animals generally have fewer complications and require less surgical time. Animals with complex medical histories and underlying issues should only be treated at a full-service veterinary clinic. These animals may require IV fluids, pre-surgery blood work, constant monitoring and different medications.
* Pre-operative evaluations. All animals are assessed by our surgeons to determine if they are healthy enough for a spay or neuter surgery. All surgeries run the risk of complications, but if there is any underlying medical condition, we will cancel the surgery and refer you back to your clinic, or one of our partner full-service clinics.
* Spay/Neuter clinics do not offer pre-surgical bloodwork in house. You do have the option of getting bloodwork at your regular clinic. If your pet is older, overweight or has any health issues, surgery should be done at your regular clinic where they can do bloodwork prior to surgery. This helps to identify any underlying issues which may complicate surgery.
* Spay/Neuter clinics offer IV fluids during surgery but it is not mandated. If an animal is going to be under anesthetic for a long period of time, IV fluids will help maintain blood pressure and blood perfusion to the organs. The majority of young, healthy animals do not require this, and because our surgery time is shorter, they are not under anesthetic for very long. If your pet has any history of cardiac or blood pressure problems, they should be seen at a full-service clinic.
* One of the biggest expenses to a clinic is staffing. A Spay/Neuter clinic know exactly what they are going to be doing every day, exactly how many surgeries they have booked, and exactly how many staff they need. They don’t need to have extra staff in case an emergency comes through the door. This allows for easier budgeting with savings passed on to the client. Lanark Leeds and Grenville Spay Neuter Clinic staffs a minimum of 3 veterinary technicians on a surgery day. Patient care is extremely important to us. The sole responsibility of one technician is to monitor your pet after surgery. This includes keeping your pet warm, administering post-op medication and getting your take home medication ready.
* Equipment, staff, medications, maintenance and training all cost money. A Spay/Neuter clinic does not require the same amount of equipment (i.e. x-rays) that a full-service clinic requires. This also helps keep costs down.
* Some Spay/Neuter clinics receive government or private funding to help control the pet population. Others are self-funded with no outside source of funding. Lanark Leeds and Grenville Spay Neuter Clinic is a self-funded clinic. We have set our prices as low as possible in order for us to break-even on our expenses. Because of this, we cannot offer any other discounts for multiple pets or rescues.

Remember, low-cost spay and neuter clinics are not full-service veterinary clinics, and they are not designed to be. They exist to help the SPCA and rescues control the pet population, and to help owners who cannot afford the cost of a full-service hospital. They also help to keep spay and neuter surgeries in Canada. They are an important addition to any community, and they work with your regular veterinarian. These clinics are not in competition with full-service clinics and are in place to help reduce overcrowding in rescues and prevent thousands of needless euthanasia’s every year.

Do your research. To determine what is right for your animal, contact your regular veterinarian or visit our website: 613345spay.ca

*References:*

1. *The difference between low cost spay/neuters and regular clinics may surprise you. Carolyn Karrh, DVM. Feb. 23, 2016. Drandyroarke.com*
2. *The difference between low cost spay/neuter and regular clinics. Winslow Animal Hospital. Aug. 24, 2017.*

*Winslowanimalhospital.com*