

Southgate Animal Clinic

7851 SE King Rd. Milwaukie, OR 97222 503-771-0857

Ear Cropping

Ear cropping is a surgical procedure requiring a general anesthetic. This is a purely cosmetic procedure and in no way necessary for the general welfare of your dog. The following rules must be adhered to faithfully, with no exceptions unless approved previously by our doctors. As this is a cosmetic surgery, there is no guarantee on the procedure. This includes the shape and if the ears will stand. We can guarantee that the surgery will be done to the best of our ability.

The best age for ear cropping is between 9 and 12 weeks of age. Many breeds cannot be done after this age, as the ears are not likely to stand. The type of crop depends on the future size, weight, head shape and general body conformation your pet will have. If you do not specify a style for the ears, they will be cropped in the standard way for the breed, with the length and width the doctor deems will look the best when the dog is mature.

Once the surgery is complete, the majority of aftercare is your responsibility. To be successful, you must follow the guidelines completely or you increase the risk of the ears NOT STANDING or scarring. It is a 4-6 week commitment that often involves lifestyle changes on your part. The puppy will need to be seen every 5-7 days until the ears are standing. Please keep this in mind when considering having your puppies ears cropped and schedule accordingly (vacation, holidays, work schedules, etc.) 4-6 weeks is the average time it takes for the ears to stand. Larger breeds will often take longer than smaller breeds. When you return to the clinic for the re-wrapping and suture removal, you will not see the doctor. You must make an appointment before you come, preferably on the date we recommend. We realize that scheduling is difficult at times, but we must have the proper staff available to wrap your puppy's ears. Ear cropping surgery is scheduled Monday through Thursday only.

The base price for the ear crop is determined by breed and includes:

- Pre-surgical examination
- Pre-surgical clotting time
- IV catheter
- Pre-surgical sedation and pain control
- Valium/ketamine IV induction **\$475 Min Pin/Schnauzer**
- Isoflurane gas anesthesia **\$500 APBT/Amstaff**
- Pulse oximeter blood oxygen monitoring **\$550 Doberman Pinscher**
- Cardiac heart rate monitoring **\$575 Great Dane/Mastiff**
- Respiration monitoring
- Blood Pressure monitoring
- Operating room and supplies
- Surgeon's fee
- Post-op pain control
- Overnight hospitalization and care
- E-collar to protect scratching of the ears
- Pain control to go home
- Tranquilizer to go home
- Pet-tinic liquid vitamins
- Panalog Ointment (if needed)
- Seven return visits, including 5 ear re-wraps
 - **Due to the age or size of your puppy, additional medication may be required resulting in additional fees.**

The Guidelines for Ear Cropping are as Follows:

1. Prior to scheduling a surgery, we require a deposit of ½ the cost of the surgery. The deposit will be deducted from the cost of the surgery, but will not be refunded if the surgery appointment is cancelled within 48 hours of the scheduled surgery, or your puppy does not show up for surgery.
2. Do not give any food to your puppy after midnight the night before surgery (water is ok). The stomach must be empty.
3. The puppy must be brought to the clinic at the scheduled time the morning of surgery.
4. You must bring proof of current vaccinations(breeder records, veterinarian records, etc.)
5. The morning after the surgery your puppy will be able to go home between 9:30 & 10. Please call between 9 & 9:30 am to verify.

6. We require the bill be paid in full upon release of your puppy. We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover & CareCredit—no checks.
7. When your puppy is discharged you will be told when the first follow-up appointment should be scheduled. This is generally in 5 days. Please make the appointment before you leave the clinic.
8. Your puppy must be given the tranquilizers that were sent home with you 1-2 hours prior to your appointment time (at least for the first 3 visits).
9. The e-collar **MUST STAY ON AT ALL TIMES** until the sutures are removed (usually 10 days).
10. If you have more than one puppy, they must be kept separated when not supervised. Southgate Animal Clinic is not responsible for damage done to the ears due to you allowing the puppies to play with each other.
11. Once the sutures are removed, we may want to leave the pups ears down for 48 hours to let them air out. After this visit you will return weekly for 3-4 wraps, and then we will try them down. If they flop over or down, we will wrap them again. There is an additional charge for wrapping the ears if they do not stand after 5 wraps.

Important Things to Note:

- ✓ Your puppy **MUST** be on a vaccination program and be free of parasites (fleas & worms). You should be giving the pup a good multiple vitamin AND 1/2 – 1 hard-boiled egg (with the shell—puree in blender with a little water) daily. Good nutrition is vital, not only for the puppy's ears standing, but also in the overall development of your pet.
- ✓ If you notice ANY drainage or odor from the ear you must call us immediately.
- ✓ If the posts come out of the ear or if the posts break, we must see the pup immediately. This is also true if the wrapping gets wet. **DO NOT** put any tape on the ears or try to put the posts back in.
- ✓ The first 7-10 days are the most difficult for you and your puppy. The ears are sore and beginning to itch as they start healing. You must be very alert during this time so as not to let the pup harm the ears. Once the sutures are removed, the aftercare is minimal and the process generally goes very smoothly.
- ✓ If your puppy is very uncomfortable, please call us. Do not give you pup anything else without checking with us first.
- ✓ Above all, the ears must be taken care of and you must return for the follow-up visits when we recommend. In the years of doing ear cropping the failures (not standing or taking much longer than normal to stand) were usually cases of the owner not following our recommendations. You are spending a lot of money, and the puppy will have to “wear” the ears for the rest of its life, so let's work together and do it right.