



# Your Pets Are Counting On You To Learn About Laser Surgery



Westonka Animal Hospital/ Lake Minnetonka Pet Wellness Center are some of the first private practices in the country to use a laser surgical unit. This break through technology, which was only available before to research institutions is now available to your pet.

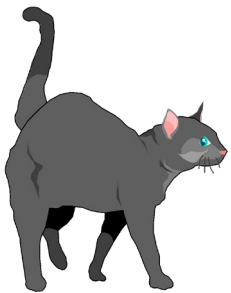
Rather than a scalpel blade, a laser uses a highly focused beam of light about the size of this period,  $\cdot$  to vaporize cells and nerve endings.

## **Why use laser surgery?**

- Less pain – the laser seals nerve endings as it “cuts”, so your pet may require less anesthesia during the operation, reducing the risk of complications. Pain and swelling after surgery is also significantly reduced. Laser surgery is the only way we will perform a cat declaw procedures.
- Less bleeding – The laser seals small blood vessels during surgery, making the routine procedures virtually “bloodless”.
- Less swelling – Laser surgery does not crush, tear, or bruise because there is no physical contact with the tissue.

## **What does this mean for my pet?**

- **Reduced risk of infection** – the laser sterilizes as it removes diseased tissue, killing bacteria that cause infection.
- **Precision** – the laser can remove unhealthy tissue without affecting or removing surrounding healthy tissue. For example, the laser will vaporize any cancer cells and will not potentially allow cancer cells to break off or “seed” adjacent tissue such as might happen with a scalpel blade. Also, it allows the surgeon to remove as little as one skin layer at a time for extreme precision.
- **More Effective Cancer Surgeries** - the laser will vaporize any cancer cells and will not allow cancer cells to break off or “seed” adjacent tissue such as might happen with a scalpel blade. Broken off cancer cells, which may occur with a scalpel blade, may travel through lymphatic ducts to other distant parts of the body while the surgery site is healing. That is



why ethically, we feel we must mandate that all cancer surgeries be performed with the laser.

- We do not want the surgery to be the cause for a cancer to spread to other parts of the body.
- **Quick Return to Normal Activities** – Healing is rapid and there is less post-operative discomfort.

Laser procedures reduce the trauma to your pet, improve healing, and may shorten time spent in the veterinary hospital.

[www.westonka.vet](http://www.westonka.vet)

**A photograph of the front of a cat's paw taken minutes after laser declaw surgery.**