

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does a laser work?

A laser is a device that produces an extremely powerful and concentrated beam of light. The way a particular laser works is determined by the specific wavelength of light that it produces. Our surgical laser creates a beam that is even more powerful than a similarly sized beam leaving the surface of the sun. The most common laser is called a CO2 laser, and it produces an invisible beam of light that vaporizes the water normally found in the skin and other soft tissue. The veterinary surgeon can precisely control the laser, only a thin layer of tissue is removed, leaving the surrounding areas unaffected.

### What types of procedures are done using a surgical laser?

We do most soft tissue surgeries with laser technology. The laser is ideal for a wide variety of soft tissue procedures for dogs, cats, birds, reptiles and pocket pets.

Abdominal surgery such as spaying is one of our most common procedures, along with neutering, tumor removals and declawing. Lasers can be used in dermatology, ophthalmic and minor procedures, too. A rapidly expanding use of the technology is in removal of unsightly warts and cysts. Many owners were previously reluctant to subject their pets to the trauma of surgery, even for these minor procedures. Now they can be performed quickly and easily, with very little pain.



### Ask Us – We Love to Communicate!

We are excited about the technology that our practice provides in the care of your pet. We love to communicate about the advances in pet health care and the services we offer at **Faithful Friends Animal Hospital**. Please ask us whenever you have a question on the care of your pet – we're here to help.

# Laser Surgery

**Advanced Veterinary Care**



**Laser Surgery Reduces Pain and Speeds Healing**



Animal Hospital

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Surgical Laser Machine

## Medical Advances and the Cost of Quality Veterinary Care

Veterinary medicine has advanced greatly over the past decade. Technologies once thought to be impractical for a veterinary practice are now becoming more accessible, even part of the standard of care in some instances. For instance, the ability to use laser technology as a surgical tool was rare just a few years ago. Very few practices owned a laser surgical machine as it is a major capital investment and required significant professional training to use this technology. Those hospitals that have them are considered technologically advanced.

### The Cost of Quality Veterinary Care –

Laser surgery, ultrasound, digital radiology, point of service laboratory diagnostics, where labs results are available in minutes, are just several examples of the complex technologies which have become part of the practice of veterinary medicine.

Today, pets have been elevated in status of “family” and are afforded the best in health care. Today’s veterinarian belongs to a profession with a rapidly expanding body of knowledge and ever increasing sophistication in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and equipment. These advances with the required additional professional training are quite expensive, adding to the cost of providing quality veterinary care for your special family member.

## How Can Advanced Laser Surgery Benefit My Pet?

A surgical laser can be used instead of the steel scalpel in a variety of procedures in general surgery, dermatology, ophthalmic surgery and many other specialties. It can be used to make unique bloodless laser incisions, as well as to erase unhealthy tissue (e.g., tumors) without excessive loss of blood typical of conventional scalpel-based surgery. When using the veterinary surgical laser, only an intense beam of laser light touches the tissue. The laser is so precise that it can selectively remove only a few cells at a time.



### CAT DECLAW LASER PROCEDURE

The laser has revolutionized cat declawing, dramatically reducing pain and recovery time. During declawing the light beam seals the nerve endings and kills bacteria in the procedure area, reducing pain and the chance of post-operative infection.

## Key Advantages

- **Less Pain** – Laser energy seals nerve endings as it moves through tissue. Without a “raw” severed nerve end, your pet feels less pain after surgery.
- **Less Bleeding** – The laser seals small blood vessels, which allows your veterinarian to perform surgeries with more precision and provides for a clear, dry surgical field. Procedures can be performed in less time, reducing the time your pet is under anesthesia.
- **Less Swelling** – Laser energy does not crush, tear or bruise because only a beam of intense light contacts the tissue. In addition, the sealing action provided by the laser energy to the lymphatic vessels results in less tissue trauma and post-operative swelling. This means less pain and faster recovery time.