



General Information About VSNIP

How is the program funded?

VSNIP is funded by a \$4 fee that's added to the cost of licensing a dog in Vermont. This fee — paid by all dog owners — will cover most of the cost of spaying/neutering your dog or cat. Program funds are limited by the number of dogs that are licensed each year.

Dogs are legally required to:

1. Be licensed by the age of 6 months.
2. Have proof of a current rabies vaccine to get a license. Dogs should get their first rabies vaccine between the age of 12 weeks and 6 months.

Be sure to vaccinate your dog against rabies and register your dog at your town clerk's office. Rabies is in Vermont. It is deadly.

Why are dogs required to be licensed?

A license:

1. Helps identify your dog if they are lost.
2. Provides proof that your dog has been vaccinated against rabies. They'll still need immediate medical attention if they are bitten by a rabid animal.
3. Protects your animal if they bite another animal or a person. If your dog is not currently vaccinated and registered, a bite could result in your dog being quarantined and possibly even euthanized to test for rabies.
4. Helps control the pet population and prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Participating veterinarian offices have agreed to accept a reduced rate to provide services for people with VSNIP vouchers. This program relies on their generosity.

Be polite. Be grateful. Say thank you!

REMINDERS

It's Very Important That You:

1. Keep your appointment. Call right away if you need to reschedule.
2. The voucher must be used within 60 days. If the surgery can't be performed in time, call VSNIP at (802) 672-5302 to get an extension.
3. Be on time for drop off and pick up.
4. Bring the voucher and \$27 copay per animal to the vet's office — on or before the day of the surgery.
5. Talk to your vet about *included*¹ and *not included*² procedures before the surgery.
6. Accept or decline the procedures that are optional (*not included*). Pay for any optional ones you accept.
7. Make sure your animal is free of fleas before the surgery.
8. Thank your vet's office for participating in VSNIP!

-
1. **INCLUDED:** the cost of the entire surgical procedure, including the exam (even if it's required by the office prior to the day of surgery), maintenance, anesthesia, pain medication during surgery, discharge of your animal, removal of sutures, one series of the distemper vaccination and one rabies vaccination.
 2. **NOT INCLUDED (optional):** pain medication you take home for pain relief after surgery, fees associated with surgical complications if the animal is in heat or pregnant, and other procedures. Bring this list with you and review the options below. If a vet office requires you to have any of these procedures, you may decline and call another office.

Examples of Optional Procedures

Pre-anesthesia blood work	\$ _____	Micro-chip	\$ _____
Heartworm/FIV/Leukemia test	\$ _____	De-worming	\$ _____
Pain medication	\$ _____		

Additional Info:

- There are several types/costs of post-operative pain medication available to help your animal feel better.
- Micro-chipped animals can be tracked if they are lost.
- Animals need to be worm & flea free to be healthy.

