



WHY SHOULD I HAVE MY DOG SPAYED?

We recommend spaying all female pets. The benefits to your pet's health and helping reduce the pet overpopulation crisis make this decision easier.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SPAYING IN THE FEMALE DOG?

- Prevention of "heat" or estrus.
- When in "heat", the female experiences an urge to escape in order to find a mate. This unwanted and dangerous behavior is eliminated.
- It eliminates the possibility of false pregnancy following the "heat cycle."
- Prevention of uterine infection known as pyometra, which can be life threatening.
- The prevention of breast cancer. Dogs spayed before the first "heat" have less than 0.5% chance of developing breast cancer.
- Elimination of the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer.

IS SPAYING PERFORMED FOR ANY OTHER REASON?

The operation may be performed for several medical conditions. These include:

- Treatment of intractable false or phantom pregnancy
- Females with irregular or abnormal cycles due to ovarian cysts
- Spaying is also carried out on occasions to correct certain behavioral abnormalities
- Treatment of uterine infection (pyometra) or cancer
- Dystocia (difficult birthing) or post caesarean-section surgery

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES?

Many disadvantages often quoted regarding spaying aren't founded in fact. Obesity is probably the most commonly quoted disadvantage of spaying. While it is true that spaying your dog can decrease their metabolism slightly, obesity is the direct result of overfeeding and/or lack of physical activity. By regulating your dog's caloric intake and exercising them regularly, you can prevent obesity.

Spaying doesn't cause a change in personality, guarding instincts, intelligence, playfulness or affection.

WHEN SHOULD THE OPERATION BE PERFORMED?

Most veterinarians recommend spaying at six months of age for most dogs. For large or giant breeds, it is usually recommended to spay closer to 1 year of age as we want to allow them to reach their full size prior to the operation. Spaying these breeds while younger can predispose them to joint issues in the future.

ARE THERE ANY DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION?

We understand that the idea of putting your pet through major surgery can be quite scary. However, with pre-operative bloodwork, modern anesthetics, monitoring equipment, and our very knowledgeable staff, the risk of a complication is very low. It has been said that your pet has a greater chance of being injured in a car wreck than having an anesthetic or surgical complication.

This client information sheet is based on material written by Ernest Ward, DVM
© Copyright 2005 Lifelearn Inc. Used with permission under license. October 23, 2019

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I LEAVE MY DOG FOR THIS PROCEDURE?

We recommend taking your pet in to the clinic about one week prior to their surgery so that we can perform a pre-anesthetic blood panel. This blood panel is very important as it will detect any abnormalities, especially in the liver and kidneys, which are the organs responsible for metabolizing and evacuating the anesthetic drugs. If there is an abnormality present, we will determine an anesthetic protocol that is safe to use in your pet, or in some cases the surgery may need to be postponed until the abnormality is managed to ensure your pet's well-being. We will also send you home with a medication called Trazadone to give before the surgery at no charge. It is part of our anesthetic protocol and is at no charge to you. We dispense this because it helps make patients more comfortable when being left at the clinic for their surgical procedure. It allows us to decrease the anesthesia given for surgery as the more calm the patient is, the more effective the anesthesia will be. It also helps patients during recovery as it decreases stress and anxiety when waking up.

Your dog will have an intravenous catheter placed to administer the anesthetic and to provide fluid therapy during the surgery. After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in her trachea or windpipe. This will allow the delivery of oxygen and the gas anesthetic directly into the lungs. The surgery consists of making a small incision just below the umbilicus and removing the ovaries and uterus. Many veterinarians use absorbable sutures so that you do not have to return to have them removed.

This client information sheet is based on material written by Ernest Ward, DVM.
© Copyright 2005 Lifelearn Inc. Used with permission under license. June 2, 2021
Copyright 2012 – 2013 by the Veterinary Information Network, Inc. All rights reserved.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There is no scientific evidence that having puppies has any calming psychological effect. This is quite honestly more myth than fact.

