

OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY IN DOGS

Client Information Series

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying a female dog. The procedure consists of surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. If the ovaries are not removed, the bothersome heat periods still occur even though pregnancy is not possible. Your dog will be given a preoperative physical examination to help ensure its safety during anesthesia and surgery. Recovery is generally uneventful, and the aftercare is minimal. Surgery is usually performed at 4 ½- 9 months of age.

What are the advantages?

- Eliminates unwanted heats and the inconvenience of protecting your pet from male dogs.
- Eliminates the messy discharge and odor associated with heat cycles (estrus).
- Protects your pet against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and also uterine infections (pyometra).
- Mammary gland cancer seldom develops in dogs spayed prior to their first heat.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will it make my dog fat and lazy? No. obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper nutrition and exercise.
2. Will it change her personality? No. Dog's personalities do not fully develop until 1-2 years of age. If there were to be a personality change in a dog spayed at an early age, it probably would have occurred without the surgery.
3. Shouldn't my dog have a litter first? No. There is no scientific evidence that your pet will in any way benefit from having a litter before spaying.

Important Considerations

Prior to surgery your dog should have a thorough physical exam and should be free of any external (fleas) and internal (worms) parasites. All vaccinations should be up to date.

“Caring for your pets...as if they were our own”