

OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY IN CATS (spay)

General Information

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying or neutering female cats. 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 impossible. Surgery is usually performed at 6-9 months of age.

Though it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique.

Prevention of pregnancy and heat periods is the main reason for the surgery, but the procedure is also performed in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and uterine cancer, and some skin disorders.

What Are the Advantages?

- * There will be no more heat periods.
- * There will be no unwanted kittens.
- * Their uterine infections common to older cats rarely occur.
- * There is less chance of mammary gland cancer.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the green mark on my pet's abdomen? Your pet has been tattooed to indicate that she has been spayed in order to prevent unnecessary surgery in the future. Please do not attempt to scrub the green mark off, as it is permanent.
2. Will it make my cat fat and lazy? No. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.
2. Will it change her disposition, personality or intelligence? Cats' personalities do not fully develop until about 1 year of age. If there is a personality change after spaying at an early age, it would have occurred without surgery.
3. Shouldn't my cat have a litter first? No. There is no advantage in allowing your cat to have a litter of kittens.

Important Considerations Before and After Surgery

- * Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites (worms), and all vaccinations should be current before surgery.
- * Restrict your cat's activity for 10 days after surgery.
- * Confine your cat indoors for 10 days. Garage or barn cats must have at least 65-70 degrees warmth. Watch that they do not get too cold at night.
- * Suture removal is necessary by appointment in 10-14 days.
- * Your cat will be evaluated for suture removal: Appt=_____

Notify the Doctor if any of the following:

- * Your cat removes a suture or otherwise irritates the incision.
- * Your cat refuses to eat or is depressed after the first day home.
- * There is a change in your cat's general health.