

## OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY IN DOGS (Spay)

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying or neutering 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 impossible. Surgery is usually performed at 5 ½ -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 often necessary in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and / or uterine tumors and some skin disorders.

### What Are the Advantages?

- \* There will be no more heat periods.
- \* There will be no more unwanted puppies.
- \* Their uterine infections common in older dogs rarely occur.
- \* Mammary gland cancer seldom develops in dogs spayed before their first heat.

### 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 dog fat and lazy? No. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled by proper feeding and exercise.
3. Will it change her personality, disposition or intelligence? No. Dogs' personalities do not fully develop until 1-2 years of age. If there is a personality change in a dog neutered at a young age, it would have occurred without surgery.
4. Are there any problems associated with spaying? A very small percentage of dogs have trouble holding their urine as they become older. This is normally controllable with medication.
5. Shouldn't my dog have a litter first? No. There is no advantage in allowing your dog to have a litter of puppies.

### Important Considerations Before and After Surgery

- \* Your dog should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery.
- \* Restrict your dog's activity to on-leash walking only for \_\_\_\_ days after surgery. No Free Running allowed.
- \* Your dog should be kept in a temperature-controlled environment of 65-70 degrees. Watch that they do not get too cold at night.
- \* Suture removal is necessary. Keep incision clean and dry. No baths or swimming for 14 days. No licking at the incision area.
- \* Your dog will be evaluated for suture removal in \_\_\_\_ days.
- \* Swelling is common in older dogs. Restricting activity will help lessen swelling.

### Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

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