

SPAYING YOUR PET

Spaying is a surgical procedure recommended for most female dogs or cats over six months of age. The benefits of spaying are:

1. A dramatic decrease in the possibility of breast cancer occurring later in life, especially if done prior to one year of age.
2. Preventing the risk of an unwanted pregnancy.
3. Preventing the burden on you of caring for and finding homes for unwanted pets.
4. Removing the likelihood of life threatening uterine infections (pyometra) which can occur in unspayed pets in later years.

A spay is an operation in which both the ovaries and the uterus are removed. Removal of the ovaries means that the hormonal influence which causes the behavior known as "being in heat" is gone. It is this hormonal influence that tends to promote breast tumors. Your pet will no longer come into heat, or be able to produce offspring.

Any pet coming into the hospital for surgery is first given a thorough physical examination. Anything found during the exam which could cause problems will be discussed prior to surgery. Just as your own doctor would never place you under a general anesthetic without first running blood tests to rule out any underlying problems, our veterinarians may recommend a presurgical blood screen for your pet.

Since it is a full abdominal surgical procedure, the spay is performed with the pet placed under general anesthesia. The pet sleeps painlessly through the entire operation. To make the surgery as safe as possible, the type of anesthetic is tailored to the health and physical condition of your pet. A freshly sterilized pack of surgical instruments is used for each individual patient. This is vitally important for preventing serious infections. The surgery is performed in our operating room which is used only for sterile surgical procedures. Surgery is performed by fully gowned and gloved licensed veterinarians.

After surgery, each patient is carefully monitored by our veterinarians, trained staff members and medical technicians until she is fully awake and for the duration of her stay. No pet is dismissed from the hospital until we are satisfied that she is fully recovered from the anesthetic and stable from the surgery. Most pets will go home the day after surgery.

Spay patients do go home with sutures in the skin incision which are removed by us at no additional charge in 10-14 days. We do ask that your pet be moderately restricted in activity for that first week after going home, and that her incision area be kept as clean and dry as possible (no swimming until the sutures are removed).

The Pahle Small Animal Clinic strives to perform all surgical procedures with the highest medical and recovery standards as set forth by the profession. Our acquired expertise in surgery, diagnostic and medical work-ups, and patient management have enabled this hospital to become a certified member of the American Animal Hospital Association. This prestigious organization requires on site inspection of our facilities and techniques to qualify for and maintain membership. If you have any other questions about the procedure or regarding your specific pet, please don't hesitate to ask our trained staff or one of our veterinarians. Whenever you are ready to schedule your pet's surgery, just call us at 541-6440. Our receptionist will be happy to set up the appointment.