

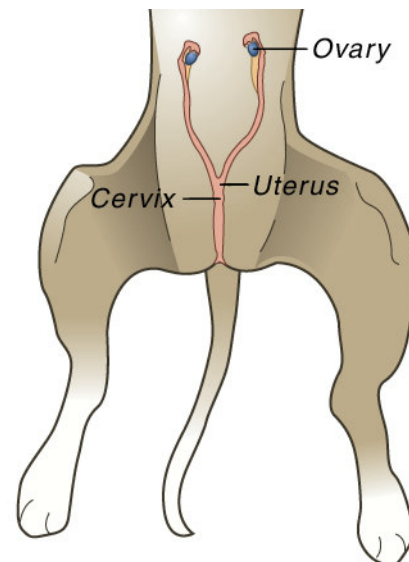
SPAYING YOUR DOG

Why should I have my dog spayed?

We recommend spaying all female pets. The benefits to your pet's health and to help reduce the pet overpopulation crisis make this decision easier. It should be remembered that owners of Guide Dogs for the Blind, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Dogs for the Disabled routinely have their dogs spayed.

Advantages of spaying your dog include:

- 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
- The prevention of breast cancer. Research has shown that an un-spayed female has about a 25% chance of developing breast cancer later in life. Without surgical treatment and chemotherapy, this condition can be fatal. 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



Routine and Urgent Veterinary Care
for Dogs, Cats and Exotic Pets

Accredited Practice, American Animal Hospital Association

2000 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583
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What are the disadvantages?

Most of the perceived disadvantages are false. The most quoted of these are that the dog will become fat, lazy, and useless as a guard dog. Obesity is probably the most commonly quoted disadvantage of spaying. Obesity is the result of overfeeding and lack of physical activity. By regulating your dog's diet and caloric intake, you can prevent obesity in spayed or intact females.

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

I am told that letting my dog have one litter will quiet her down.

There is no scientific evidence that having puppies has any calming psychological effect.

When should the operation be performed?

Research reveals that spaying a pet at an early age does not cause any increased risk. We recommend spaying between four and six months of age.

Is there any alternative to surgery?

Not at the present time, although there are several promising advances being made in this area.

Are there any dangers associated with the operation?

Spaying is considered a major operation and requires general anesthesia. With modern anesthetics and monitoring equipment, 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.

How should I prepare my pet for the procedure?

Do not allow your pet to eat after 10pm the night before surgery. You may leave water available, but only in small amounts. Do not let them gulp down a large amount. In most cases your pet's doctor will advise you to administer any regular medications as you usually would. Check with your pet's doctor if you have specific questions regarding medications the morning of surgery.





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What happens during this procedure?

When you bring in your pet on the day of her spay, you will meet with an admit technician who will review your estimate with you and go over any preferences or questions you may have before you drop her off. A deposit will be taken, and you will need to fill out some forms.

The admit technician will explain that once your pet is brought back to the Treatment area, their Pre-Op will begin. A Pre-anesthetic exam will be performed by their doctor, and pre-anesthetic bloodwork will be drawn and run in our in-house laboratory. Pre-anesthetic bloodwork is important to ensure that your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia and that their body will be able to process the anesthetic agents properly.

If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. Most pets will have an intravenous catheter placed to administer the anesthetic, to provide fluid therapy during the surgery, and it allows us immediate access should your pet require additional medications.

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. The procedure usually takes about 30-45 minutes. Most pets will have non-absorbable sutures that will need to be removed ten to fourteen days after surgery.

How soon can my pet go home after her spay?

Your pet will need 3-4 hours to recover here at the hospital following their surgery. The technician or the doctor will call you to let you know that the procedure is finished and that your pet is in recovery, and they will schedule a discharge appointment time for you to come in and meet with our discharge technician.

The discharge technician will review the instructions from the doctor about aftercare, go over any medications that have been prescribed, and answer any additional questions you may have.

What is the approximate cost?

	Under age 5	Over age 5
Under 50 lbs	\$465	\$510
Over 50 lbs	\$500	\$550

This includes the Preanesthetic Exam, Preanesthetic Bloodwork, IV Catheter and Fluids, Anesthesia, the Spay Surgery, Pain Medication and E-Collar to go home, and a Complementary Toe Nail Trim. If your pet is over 75 lbs, or is in heat, additional charges will apply.



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Are there any post-operative precautions I should take?

After undergoing anesthesia, your pet will probably still be a little tired for the rest of the day. You should keep her quiet and confined, and keep her away from things like pools, decks, and stairs for the remainder of the day. It is important to allow her to rest quietly, away from other pets and small children.

After your pet has settled in at home for about 30 minutes or so, you can offer small amounts of water. If no vomiting occurs for 30 minutes after that, then small amounts of food may be given. If any vomiting occurs, withhold food until the next day, but leave water available.

Although the incision is the only evidence of surgery you can see, your pet is doing a lot of healing on the inside of her abdomen as well, and even if she isn't showing any signs of pain or discomfort, it is important to keep her activity restricted. This means no running, jumping, or climbing stairs, and no activity that induces excitement. You may want to restrict her to a portion of the house to help keep her calm.

If you are having trouble keeping your pet calm, please call to discuss options with the doctor. They may prescribe some sedatives to ensure the healing process is allowed to continue.

You will also need to ensure that your pet cannot chew or lick at her incision site. Even if the sutures remain intact, an infection could develop if your pet is allowed to chew or lick the site.

There are various aids you may need to use in keeping your pet away from their incision site:

- Elizabethan Collar (E-Collar)
- Bite-not collar
- Inflatable collar
- T-shirt

Inspect the incision every day and call us if you see any redness, swelling, or discharge. These could be signs of infection, and require medical attention. Too much activity can cause an infection at the incision site.

Rest and restriction of activity are the primary post-operative care you should provide. Most dogs can resume normal activity ten to fourteen days after surgery. Until then, leash walks, no running or climbing stairs and lots of rest are the rule.

If non-absorbable sutures were used, you need to call to make an appointment to have these sutures removed 10-14 days after the surgery.

During the appointment we will bring your pet to the back, inspect the incision site, remove the sutures, and answer any additional questions you may have.

If you are concerned or have any questions, please call us anytime at (925) 866-8387.