

SPAYING YOUR CAT

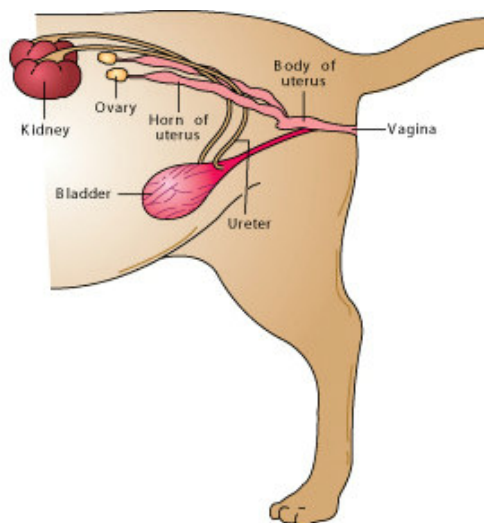
What is meant by ovariectomy or spaying?

Spaying is the common term used to describe the surgical procedure known scientifically as an ovariectomy. In this procedure, the ovaries and uterus are completely removed in order to sterilize a female cat.

Why should I have my cat spayed?

We recommend that all non-breeding cats be sterilized. Here are several health benefits associated with spaying your cat.

- Spaying eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancers.
- Breast cancer is the number one type of cancer diagnosed in intact or un-spayed female cats.
- If your cat is spayed before her first heat cycle, there is less than 1/2 of 1% (0.5%) chance of developing breast cancer.
- With every subsequent heat cycle, the risk of developing breast cancer increases.
- After 2 1/2 years of age ovariectomy gives no protective benefit against developing breast cancer.
- Pets with diabetes or epilepsy should be spayed to prevent hormonal changes that may interfere with medications.



Are there other benefits to spaying my cat?

The most obvious benefit is the prevention of unplanned pregnancies. There is no medical or scientific reason for letting your cat have a litter before she is spayed.

Once a cat reaches puberty, usually at around seven months of age, she will have a heat or estrus cycle every two to three weeks for most of the year, unless she becomes pregnant. She will be "in heat" or receptive to mating for approximately one week in each cycle. During "heat" she may display unsociable behavior such as loud and persistent crying and frequent rubbing and rolling on the floor. This behavior coupled with her scent, will attract male cats from miles around. Removal of the ovaries will stop her estrus cycles.



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

Accredited Practice, American Animal Hospital Association

2000 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583
T 925.866.8387
F 925.866.0290
www.webvets.com

Will spaying have any affect on my cat?

In the vast majority of cats, there are absolutely no adverse affects following spaying. There are many myths and rumors that are not supported by facts or research. Be sure to address any questions or concerns you may have with your veterinarian prior to surgery.

When should I have my cat spayed?

Spaying should be performed before the first estrus or “heat cycle”. We recommend spaying your cat between four and six months of age. Research reveals that spaying a cat at an early age does not cause any increased risk. It is possible to spay your cat if she is pregnant.

Are there any dangers associated with the procedure?

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
\$400	\$450

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.



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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.