

## **Spay (Ovariohysterectomy) and Castration/Neuter (Orchiectomy)**

**General Information About Spay:** Ovariohysterectomy is a medical term for spaying a female dog or cat. The procedure consists of surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. If the ovaries are not removed, the bothersome heat cycles still occur even though pregnancy is impossible. Surgery is usually performed at 4-6 months of age. Although it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique. Prevention of pregnancy and heat cycles are the main reasons for the surgery, but the procedure is often necessary when treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and/or uterine tumors, and some skin disorders. When your pet is spayed, she will have no personality change, but some pets do have a tendency to gain weight more easily.

**Frequently Asked Questions about Spaying:** **1)** 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. **2)** Are there benefits to spaying in addition to eliminating the heat cycle and the chances of pregnancy? Yes! Spayed female dogs and cats will live longer, healthier lives. Spaying helps prevent mammary cancer and pyometria infection (pus filled uterus) which can be life threatening.

**General Information About Neutering:** Castration is the surgical removal of the testicles. Surgery is usually performed at 4-6 months of age. Such surgery is performed to eliminate sexual activities and render the pet sterile. Castration usually (but not always) reduces an animal's tendency to roam, fight, and mark territory. The general level of aggression may also be reduced; however, castration is not a replacement for obedience training by the owner. When your pet is neutered, he will have no personality change, but some pets do have a tendency to gain weight more easily.

**Frequently Asked Questions about Neutering:** Are there benefits to neutering in addition to elimination of the tendency to roam, mark territory, and fight? Yes! Neutered dogs and cats have less health conditions as they get older, such as testicular cancer and prostate problems.

### **Home Care**

**Feeding:** Offer your pet their regular diet. Don't give him/her food they are not used to eating.

**Exercise:** Restrict your pet's activity for about 7-10 days. No stairs for 2 days. Short walks for 5-7 days OK.

**Incision:** **1)** Check the incision at least once daily. If you notice any redness, swelling or discharge, call our clinic. **If** your pet has visible, external sutures, they are to be removed by us in 10 – 14 days. Please call to make an appointment. **2)** Monitor your pet's attitude at home following surgery. If you notice any vomiting, weakness, decrease in appetite or any other problems, please call. **3)** No baths for 14 days after surgery. **4)** If your pet is constantly licking, chewing, or scratching at their incision site, please come in and get an e-collar for your pet to wear while they are unattended.

**Medication:** Your pet received an injection for pain relief the day of surgery. He/she was placed under gas anesthesia during surgery. A small tube was placed down their throat which can sometimes cause irritation for a day or two. If there is any persistent coughing for more than 2 days, let us know.

Finally, the most important thing to remember is to let him/her rest following this surgery. The quieter he/she is for the next 10 days, the faster the incision will heal.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet!