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Cat Spay

(Ovariohysterectomy)

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying or neutering female cats. 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 5-7 months of age. Prevention of pregnancy and heat periods is the main reason for this surgery, but the procedure is also performed in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and uterine cancer and some skin disorders.

Though it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique. You will also be given the option for blood screening and pain medication for your cat.

What are the Advantages?

- There will be no more heat periods.
- There will be no more unwanted kittens.
- The uterine infections common to older cats do not occur.
- There is less chance of mammary gland cancer

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Will it make my cat fat and lazy?* No. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.
2. *Will it change her disposition, personality or intelligence?* Cats' personalities do not fully develop until about 1 year of age. If there is a personality change after spaying at an early age, it would have occurred without surgery.
3. *Shouldn't my cat have a litter first?* No. There is no advantage in allowing your cat to have a litter of kittens.

Important Considerations Before and After Surgery

- Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery
- Do not feed your cat for 12 hours before surgery
- Suture removal is not necessary
- After surgery, restrict your cat's exercise for 5 days.
- Keep your cat in a warm environment for 12 hours following surgery.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

- Your cat removes a suture, licks obsessively at the incision or otherwise irritates the incision.
- Your cat refuses to eat or is depressed after the first day home.
- There is a change in your cat's general health.

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT IS _____

