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## Dog Spay

### (Ovariohysterectomy)

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying female dogs. 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 6-9 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.

Though it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique. We recommend blood screening, IV fluid therapy and pain medication for this surgery.

### What are the Advantages?

- There will be no more heat periods.
- There will be no more unwanted puppies.
- The uterine infections common to older dogs are not an issue.
- There is reduced risk of mammary gland cancer

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Will spaying my dog make her 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?* Dogs' 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 dog have a litter first?* No. There is no advantage in allowing your dog to have a litter of puppies.

### Important Considerations Before and After Surgery

- Your dog should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery
- Do not feed your dog for 12 hours before surgery
- First feeding after surgery should be a half portion
- Suture removal is not necessary
- After surgery, restrict your dog's exercise for 5 days.
- Keep your dog inside for the first night after surgery

### Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

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

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT IS \_\_\_\_\_