



Spaying Your Dog

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Spaying (ovario-hysterectomy) is a major intra-abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique. There should be little or no discomfort afterwards.

ADVANTAGES:

- 1) Decreases the chance of breast cancer tremendously.
- 2) Prevents womb infections (called pyometra).
- 3) Prevents troublesome "heat" periods.
- 4) Prevents unwanted puppies.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- 1) ***Will spaying make my dog fat and lazy?*** No. Excess fat is caused by an imbalance between food intake and exercise, or occasionally by disease, but not by the spay surgery.
- 2) ***Will spaying change her personality, disposition, or intelligence?*** No. Remember your dog is still growing up until she is over two years of age. Personality changes are part of growing up, and will happen whether she is spayed or not.
- 3) ***Is the surgery dangerous?*** There is always some risk when a patient, (animal or human) is anesthetized. In healthy animals the risk is very slight, and is certainly much less of a health risk than pregnancy or infection!
- 4) ***Shouldn't she have a litter first?*** No. In fact, if she is spayed before she comes into her first heat, the surgery will be much easier on her physically, much easier on you financially, and she will be 127 times less likely to get breast cancer when she is older.
- 5) ***Wouldn't it be a good idea for the children to see puppies born?*** Children can be taught about reproduction in many other ways. There are films, farms, and fairs, for example. The birth process can be quite traumatic for children if complications arise or puppies die, and if the pups wind up at the pound due to the lack of a home, what does that teach the children? And remember, for every puppy you find a home for, that makes one less home available for the puppies waiting on "Death's Row" at the shelter.
- 6) ***When can she go outside again after surgery?*** She should be kept in at least until the stitches are removed two weeks after surgery. Be sure to make an appointment to have her stitches checked and removed (there is no charge).

BEFORE AND AFTER SURGERY:

- 1) Water is permitted up to 4 hours before surgery, but no food for at least 12 hours beforehand.
- 2) After surgery she should get only water until she is no longer "wobbly". If she is fed too much too soon she will throw up, so start out with a tablespoon per hour as soon as she seems "sober".
- 3) If she is not quite sober yet when she goes home, put her in a warm, dark, quiet place where she can sleep off the last effects in peace. The bottom of a small closet with the shoes removed and blankets laid down for a bed works well. Wherever she is kept, it should be easy for you to check on her quietly, and there should be absolutely NOTHING she could jump up on. Her desire to move around will return before her coordination does, so encourage her to sleep.

PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF:

If she chews or licks at the incision, refuses to eat, seems depressed, or has oozing, redness, or swelling anywhere, CALL US RIGHT AWAY AT: **546-4646**.