

Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic
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SPAY Information for your Dog and Cat

What does spaying my pet mean?

The spay procedure performed in female dogs and cats is called an ovariohysterectomy (ovario= ovary, hyster= uterus, ectomy= removal), or an OHE. Since the anatomy of female dogs and cats are very similar, the following surgery is performed in both species.

When and why should I spay my dog or cat?

Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic recommends spaying your dog or cat at 6 months of age. In addition to preventing accidental pregnancies, there are several health and behavioral benefits listed below;

- Eliminate heat cycles – along with the bleeding and the unwanted male visitors
- Eliminates unwanted pregnancies
- Eliminates uterine and ovarian cancer

How does Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic perform spays?

After your pet is admitted to the hospital a physical exam is performed. Pre-anesthetic blood work is run in hospital if it has not already been done. Your pet is then given a pre-anesthetic injection to help relieve anxiety and provide pre-emptive pain relief. Generally, an intravenous (IV) catheter is placed for administration of drugs and fluids during the procedure. Intravenous fluids are given to help maintain blood pressure, provide hydration, improve postoperative body temperature, and shorten anesthetic recovery time. The most current gas anesthesia is used with state of the art anesthesia and patient monitoring equipment. A breathing tube (endotracheal tube) is placed in the airway to deliver the gas anesthesia and oxygen as well as to provide assisted breathing if necessary. Once the patient is anesthetized the abdomen is then shaved and the skin near the surgery site is cleaned with surgical scrub. The surgeon completes a scrub of his/her hands and arms, and puts on sterile gown and gloves. The patient is draped with sterile drapes, and all surgical instruments are kept on a sterile table. The incision is made along the midline of the abdomen. We offer and recommend **Laser** surgery as an option.. The ovaries are located, their blood supply is ligated and the uterus is also ligated just above the cervix with absorbable suture material and the uterus and ovaries are removed. Sutures (stitches) (some buried and absorbable) are placed to hold the incision closed. After the surgery is completed the patient is moved where a technician monitors the patient until it is safe to remove its breathing tube. The patient's vitals are monitored for several hours by which time the patient is generally recovered from the anesthesia. Surgery patients that have been spayed are typically released the next day. Detailed aftercare instructions are given on discharge and a recheck examination is done in 10-14 days to examine incision healing and suture removal.

What surgical facilities does Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic have?

Our surgery suite is maintained in an aseptic manner equivalent to human hospitals. Each room is equipped with all the necessary items needed for optimal patient care, including anesthesia machines, pre-heated surgery tables, complete patient monitoring equipment, and closed cabinets for sterilized equipment and instruments.

What do I need to do the day of surgery? *See below for Surgical Admitting Information.*

For additional information please see our recommended links:

[Canine Spay FAQ](#)

[Pyometra](#)

[Mammary Tumors in Dogs](#)

[Feline Spay FAQ](#)

[Spay/Neuter Behavior Benefits](#)

ADMITTING Information for your Dog and Cat

Remember to fast your pet.

Your pet should not have anything to eat after 10:00pm the night before the surgery, and should not have access to water after 6:00am that morning.

If your pet is on oral medication, check with us at least 24 hours before the procedure to see whether or not he or she should get a dose the morning of surgery. Topical medications, such as ear or eye drops, or skin creams, are OK to give. If you are dropping your pet off for the day, bring his or her medications with you.

All surgery patients are admitted the morning of surgery between 7:00am-8:15am. If this time window does not work for you, you may discuss the possibility of admitting your pet to us the night before surgery and he or she would be kept in the medical ward with other stable hospitalized patients until the next morning.

Be prepared to spend about 15 minutes with the admitting technician the morning of the procedure. We will ask you questions regarding the current health of your pet that may reveal underlying problems. We need to make sure that the doctor gets all the current information about your pet, so that any modifications can be made to the surgical protocol if necessary. Bringing in a written list of comments or questions, including medications, can be helpful to ensure that no important information is missed. Be sure you supply us with phone numbers where you (or another person authorized to make medical decisions regarding your pet) can be reached *throughout the course of the day*. A surgical authorization form will also need to be signed.

Preanesthetic blood work will be run in hospital if it has not already been done. This is required for ALL pets going under anesthesia.

We offer LASER Surgery as an option. **LASER** Why laser surgery? **Less Pain.** The laser seals nerve endings as it "cuts." As a result, your pet will experience less pain and be more comfortable post operatively. **Less Bleeding.** The Laser seals small blood vessels during surgery. This speeds many procedures, reducing the time your pet needs to be under anesthesia, which further reduces possible complications. **Less Swelling.** Laser

energy does not crush, tear or bruise tissue because the only thing that touches your pet is an invisible beam of light.

What does this mean for my pet? Reduced risk of infection. As the laser removes diseased tissue, it seals the skin and reduces the amount of bacteria present. **Precision.** The laser can remove unhealthy tissue while minimizing adverse effects to healthy surrounding tissue. **Quick return to normal activities.** Healing is rapid and there is less post-operative discomfort and a better course of healing.

You have the option of having your pet microchipped while under anesthesia. Cedar Way uses the **Home Again Microchip System** a standard reliable microchip that can be detected and identified by most common microchip scanners. This can greatly increase your chances of pet recovery if ever lost or stolen. ***Don't let your pet leave home without it.***

The problem of hip dysplasia can be an important concern, in the life of your pet. A radiograph (or x-ray) taken of your pet's hips while under anesthesia can help to rule out the problem or forewarn you of future problems. You have the option of electing hip radiographs for your pet, regardless of size, breed, or species. While **hip dysplasia** can be more of a problem in large breed dogs, it can occur in any breed, and even in cats. It is important to take these radiographs under general anesthesia, because the positioning of the body is critical to the doctor's diagnosis. The patient must remain perfectly relaxed and still for this procedure- which is nearly impossible for an awake pet. We are also able to palpate (feel) the hips for laxity which will also help us in evaluating your pet's hip health.

Picking Up Your Pet From Surgery

When you arrive to pick up your pet, we will discuss written discharge instructions that will explain aftercare and making a recheck appointment. Any written discharge instructions will be tailored to your pet and his/her procedure. Any medications will be listed on the sheet, and will be dispensed at this time. Please expect a full discharge to last 15-30 minutes, as it is necessary that you understand and are willing to comply with all aspects of procedure aftercare, and your pet should have one last brief exam before departing the hospital to ensure that the patient is in good condition.

Your pet's bill is due in its entirety at this time.

Surgical Admission Questionnaire

- Has your pet been vomiting recently?
- Has your pet had any diarrhea recently?
- Has your pet been coughing or sneezing recently?
- Has your pet's appetite been normal?
- Has your pet's water consumption been normal?
- Has your pet had any excessive urination?
- Has your pet been licking excessively?
- Has your pet been shaking their head recently?
- Has your pet been licking or chewing excessively?
- Has your pet had any seizures recently?
- Has your pet had any scooting recently?
- Has your pet been limping recently?
- Has your pet been weak lately?
- Have you noticed any behavioral changes lately?
- Have you noticed any unusual odors lately?
- Has your pet had any recent medication or vaccine reactions?
- When did your pet last eat?
- When did your pet last have access to water?
- Is your pet on any medications? If so, when were they last given?