



The Facts About Ovariohysterectomy Surgery

Congratulations on deciding to spay your pet. Spaying minimizes the risk of breast cancer and eliminates the risk of life-threatening uterine infection, ovarian cancer, painful ovarian cysts, and, of course, pregnancy.

A spay, or ovariohysterectomy, is a major abdominal surgical procedure. Hopefully, this will be the only major surgery your pet will ever need. It is important to choose carefully when interviewing potential surgeons. At Clevengers Corner Veterinary Care, we provide your pet the same high quality care we insist upon for our own pets. When it comes to surgical safety, we never cut corners to save cost.

The spay surgery is done under general anesthesia. You should withhold all food from your pet after 10pm the night before her surgery. She should continue to have water available. At Clevengers Corner Veterinary Care, we are proud of the proven success of our As Safe As Possible (A.S.A.P.) Anesthesia techniques. The medical information section of this web page includes information on anesthesia in our practice. Please take a moment to review the time and effort we dedicate to providing your pet with the safest possible anesthetic experience.

The surgery itself involves making an abdominal incision near your pet's belly button. An area will be shaved and scrubbed with disinfectant to prepare for her procedure. The surgeon will remove the entire uterus and both ovaries, then stitch the incision closed.

In any abdominal surgery, sterility is extremely important. To minimize the risk of infection, your pet's surgeon will scrub with potent antibacterial disinfectants and dress in sterile gown and gloves. He will also wear a surgical cap and mask during the procedure. Each patient is assigned an individual pack of surgical instruments that have been disinfected and steam sterilized. Both inside and outside each pack, indicator strips confirm sterility procedures have been effective. The operating room at Clevengers Corner Veterinary Care is used exclusively for sterile surgical procedures and is disinfected between every patient. We go the extra mile to minimize infection risk for your pet.

While our pets naturally hide pain better than we do, studies of their nervous systems demonstrate they feel pain with the same intensity. A major abdominal surgery, like a spay, has the potential to cause significant pain if proper medications are not used. Every surgical patient at CCVC receives injectable narcotic pain medication. Some receive additional pain control including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, local anesthetics, epidurals, or other advanced pain control medications. All patients are sent home with several days of additional pain control. Your pet is part of your family. We have a responsibility to keep her pain-free.

After her surgery, your pet will spend the night in our hospital. We will allow her to rest quietly in a comfortable cage with more than adequate pain control. We will evaluate her incision and temperature the next morning and send her home with written discharge instructions. A member of the CCVC medical team is always on call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to answer any questions you have once your pet returns home.