



Pet Health Information from Milford Animal Clinic

OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY IN DOGS

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying a female dog. 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 no longer possible. Surgery should be around 6 months of age, before the first heat period.

Anesthesia

Though it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is a major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique. While under anesthesia, a technician will be monitoring the heart rate, respiration, and membrane color of your pet. The anesthetics we use are safe, but there are always risks associated with anesthetics.

The liver and kidneys are the main organs that filter out and eliminate anesthetics from the body. We offer in-house blood work that can be run prior to administration of anesthetics. This helps determine whether or not your pet may have a complication which may put them at a higher risk of undergoing the surgery.

If we do not know the health status of your dog, we recommend testing for Heartworm Disease. A dog that is positive for heartworm disease may have complications from anesthesia.

Intravenous Fluid Therapy

The surgery should take 20-30 minutes. Anytime an animal is put under anesthetics, the kidneys are damaged. Studies have shown that if fluid therapy is used during the anesthetic time, the amount of kidney damage is minimized. Fluids are given directly in the vein with catheter placement. We recommend fluid therapy for all our surgical procedures to help maximize the time you have with your pet.

Analgesics (Pain Medicine)

After the ovariohysterectomy, it will be necessary to restrict your dog's activity for 10 days. This allows the incision time to heal and strengthen without the added pressures that comes with exercise. There will be some discomfort associated with the surgery. In order to help minimize any discomfort and pain, we send home pain medications.

Internal and External Parasite Control

Before surgery, your dog should be free from internal and external parasites. If fleas are found during the pre-surgical examination, a mandatory treatment with Capstar will be given at the owner's expense. This medication kills all adult fleas within an hour, but is only effective for 24 hours. This prevents the fleas from crawling into the surgical site and jumping onto other animals while at our facility.

We stock three preventative flea control products which treat and prevent all life cycles of the flea for one month. We offer Comfortis, an oral flea preventative that provides protection for a month. In addition to flea control, Trifexis, a similar medication, prevents fleas, heartworm disease, and contains a monthly deworming medication. Frontline Plus is a topical product that kills and prevents only fleas and ticks. Frontline Plus is absorbed and distributed throughout your pet's skin coat, but can take up to three days to become effective. These products are available for purchase or can be applied or administered upon your request.

Vaccinations

We recommend that your dog be vaccinated annually to provide prevention from bacterial and viral diseases that can be transmitted between dogs and found within their environment. These vaccines commonly include DHLPP, Bordetella, and Lyme disease. By state law, all cats and dogs are required to be vaccinated for Rabies.



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Microchip

Microchips have helped reunite thousands of pets with their families. We are glad to be a part of this process and recommend placing microchips during the time of your pet's spay.

Contact Us for Details & Scheduling

Please call our office at (574) 658-4126 if you have any questions after reading this form or would like to schedule an appointment for your dog's spay.