



Country View Animal Hospital

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Canine Ovariohysterectomy Surgery

An ovariohysterectomy (spay) is the surgical removal of the female reproductive organs (the two ovaries, the uterine horns and the body of the uterus).

The procedure in dogs requires general anesthesia to induce complete unconsciousness. The dog will receive a pre-anesthetic sedative-analgesic drug (pain reliever) to help her relax. An IV (intravenous) catheter is placed to administer fluids and medications. A brief intravenous anesthetic is given to allow placement of a breathing tube in the windpipe, and subsequently inhalation (gas) anesthesia in oxygen is used during the actual surgery.

Following induction of anesthesia, with the dog lying on her back, the hair is clipped over the abdomen and the skin is scrubbed with surgical soap to disinfect the area. The dog is then moved into our surgery suite where another sterile scrub is performed. A sterile drape is placed over the surgical site. A scalpel or laser is used to incise the skin at the middle of the abdomen, and then the abdominal cavity is opened. The organs of the female reproductive tract are identified and the major blood vessels supplying the ovaries and the uterus are ligated (tied off). This must be done before these organs can be removed. Sutures (stitches) that dissolve over time are used to tie off the blood vessels and also to close the uterus above the cervix. The abdominal incision is then closed with one or two layers of sutures (stitches). The skin is often closed with skin sutures, surgical staples or tissue glue. Skin sutures or staples need to be removed in 14 days. In some cases absorbable sutures are buried under the skin and do not need to be removed.

The procedure takes about 60-90 minutes to perform in most cases, including the time needed for preparation and anesthesia. In adult or large-breed dogs the procedure can take longer, may require two surgeons and has an increased risk of bleeding and postoperative complications.

The *benefits* of this surgery include: elimination of heat cycles, elimination of pet's ability to become pregnant, reduced risk of reproductive cancers (mammary, ovarian, and uterine) and elimination of the risk of pyometra (uterine infection which can be life threatening).

The overall *risks* of this surgery in a healthy young dog are low. The major risks are those of general anesthesia (drug reactions, decreased blood pressure/temperature, regurgitation, aspiration pneumonia and cardiac arrest) which can lead to death, bleeding (hemorrhage) ranging from mild to severe, postoperative infection and wound breakdown (dehiscence) over the incision as well as swelling or seroma at the site. Although rare, urinary incontinence can also occur after a spay surgery. The onset of signs can vary and can be daily or episodic and range from mild to severe. The overall complication rate is low, but serious complications can result in death or the need for additional surgery at the owner's expense.

The post-operative home care requires giving pain medication and activity restrictions for 14 days. The incision line should be inspected daily for signs of redness, discharge, swelling or pain. The patient also needs to be prevented from licking at the incision. In general patients go home the day of surgery.

Surgical/Anesthetic Options: Please initial your choice for each option.

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Work: Complete blood count and chemistry panel to evaluate for any pre-existing conditions that may increase your pet's anesthetic or surgical risk. This is strongly recommended for ALL patients undergoing anesthesia and surgery.

_____ I accept pre-anesthetic lab work (cost: \$66.00)

_____ I decline pre-anesthetic lab work and understand that my pet may have underlying disease that may go undetected

Laser Surgery: We have the ability to use a surgical laser rather than a scalpel blade for most routine procedures. This may decrease bleeding, swelling, and postoperative pain.

_____ I elect laser surgery for my pet (cost: \$75.00)

_____ I decline laser surgery

Therapeutic Laser Treatment: This treatment can be performed on your pet's incision(s) postoperatively to reduce pain and aid in the healing process on a cellular level.

_____ I elect therapeutic laser treatment for my pet (cost: \$13.50)

_____ I decline therapeutic laser treatment

Microchip Permanent Identification: A microchip is a means of permanent identification that is implanted under the skin. If your pet is lost, your pet may be reconnected with you via the use of a chip scanner (most veterinary clinics, shelters and rescue organizations have one of these scanners).

_____ I elect to have my pet microchipped (cost: \$51.75)

_____ I decline microchipping

Consent for Anesthesia and Surgery

I, the undersigned, am the owner or authorized agent of the pet listed below, and am at least 18 years of age. I elect to have this pet undergo the anesthetic and surgical procedure listed below, and declare that I understand the procedure along with associated benefits and risks (up to and including death) as outlined above, and I have had the opportunity to have my questions regarding the procedure answered.

Client Name (print): _____ Client Signature: _____

Pet's Name: _____ Date: _____

Species: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

Surgical Procedure(s): _____

Additional Services:

Phone number where you can be reached today: _____

My pet has had food withheld for a minimum of 8 hour: Yes _____ No _____

My pet's current medications/supplements:

Dose

Last given

Veterinarian Name: _____

Veterinarian/Technician Signature _____ Date: _____