

Spay/Ovariohysterectomy



LITTLE CREEK
VETERINARY CLINIC

WHAT THE PROCEDURE INVOLVES:

This surgery involves an incision into the abdomen to remove the ovaries/uterine body. This procedure is performed under general anesthesia (GA).

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS?

PREVENTION OF REPRODUCTIVE CANCERS – Spaying before the first heat cycle will result in a near zero chance of your pet developing mammary cancer. Removing the uterus and both ovaries eliminates the chance that cancer can occur in these organs.

PYOMETRA PREVENTION – Pyometra is a life-threatening infection that occurs in the uterus of intact dogs and cats. Removal of the uterus at time of spay prevents this from occurring in the first place.

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS (DURING SURGERY AND/OR RECOVERY)

- Hemorrhage (excessive bleeding)
- Dehiscence (sutures coming undone)
- Swelling/inflammation at the incision site
- Seroma (pocket of fluid)
- Infection
- Trauma to the ureter (tube that delivers urine from kidney to bladder)
- Ovarian remnant (piece of ovary left behind)



POTENTIAL ANESTHETIC COMPLICATIONS

- Airway irritation
- Low blood pressure
- Hypothermia/hyperthermia
- Cardiovascular collapse
- Respiratory depression
- Gastric reflux
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Hypoxic brain damage
- Embolism
- Death

POST-OP PAIN CONTROL

The majority of veterinarians will use an NSAID (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) medication such as Metacam/meloxicam during your pet's recovery. This drug will typically also be sent home with you for after surgery care. The advantage of an NSAID is that it treats both pain and inflammation. However, it should not be given to animals with the following, as it can worsen these conditions:

- Underlying liver or kidney disease
- Gastro-intestinal issues (vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia)

While most young pets have no underlying issues, blood work may detect elevated kidney or liver values that would alter our decision to use an NSAID. For this reason, it is recommended to have bloodwork run prior to surgery. Other drugs that might be used in place of an NSAID include opiates and gabapentin.

RECOVERY TIME

Your pet will be monitored closely during surgery and recovery from anesthesia. Typically, pets go home the same day of surgery. Your pet will go home with instructions for at home care and exercise restriction.