

## **Benefits of Spaying Your Dog**

Spaying your female dog is a surgical procedure usually performed at 6 to 8 months of age. Spaying your puppy at this time can provide the following benefits:

- Eliminates unwanted heats and the inconvenience of protecting her from male dogs
- Prevents pregnancy and the complications arising from pregnancy and delivery
- Eliminates the messy discharge and odor associated with estrus
- Done prior to the first heat, spaying greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer
- Protects your dog against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra)
- Helps control the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies

There is no scientific or other evidence that your dog will in any way benefit from having a heat and/or litter before spaying. Although hormonal changes after the surgery may temporarily increase her appetite, weight gain can be controlled by adjusting the type of food given.

## **Dog Spay FAQs**

How long will my dog stay at the veterinary clinic after surgery?

- We like to keep our dog spays over night. We feel that this first night of confinement helps the incision in healing.

When do her sutures have to be removed?

- Ten to fourteen days after her procedure we ask that you bring your dog back for suture removal. This is free of charge and no appointment

is necessary. It is also a great time for us to take a look at the incision and get an update on how she is doing after her surgery.

What are my instructions after I take her home?

- The biggest thing we want you to keep in mind is that it is very important to keep your pet calm and on a leash when outside for ten days after her surgery. This is an invasive surgery and to prevent complication this is an important step for her recovery. Things like jumping on couches, beds and running up and down stairs are not recommended.

Also as previously mentioned, 10-14 days after her surgery you will need to bring her in for suture removal.

Will she gain a lot of weight after surgery?

- There has been a documented slowing of metabolism after spays. It may be necessary to use a reduced calorie food or cut back on her current portions after her surgery.