



Blue Springs

Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



Spay Surgery

An ovariectomy (Spay) is a surgical procedure recommended for most female dogs or cats before they reach six months of age. The benefits of spaying include:

- A dramatic decrease in the possibility of breast cancer occurring later in life, especially if done before the first heat cycle.
- Preventing the risk for your pet of an unwanted pregnancy.
- Preventing the burden on you of caring for and finding homes for unwanted puppies or kittens.
- Removing the likelihood of life-threatening uterine infections (pyometra) which can occur in an unspayed pet in later years.

Spaying is an operation in which both the ovaries and the uterus are removed. Your pet will no longer come into heat or be able to produce puppies or kittens.

The night before surgery your pet will need to be taken off food at 8:00 p.m. The morning of surgery, your pet will receive a thorough preanesthetic physical exam by one of the doctors. All potential physical problems are thoroughly discussed with you by the doctor at that time. A preanesthetic blood screen will be suggested for your pet at this time. This allows us to evaluate your pet's kidney and liver function as well as blood clotting ability. This extra procedure allows us to be sure your pet is healthy "inside and out" and that she will be a safe candidate for surgery.

Since the ovariectomy (Spay) is a major abdominal surgical procedure, it is performed with your pet placed under general anesthesia. Your pet sleeps painlessly through the entire operation. At Blue Springs Animal Hospital, your pet's safety is our primary concern. With several different anesthetic choices in our hospital pharmacy, we can custom design an anesthetic regimen for your pet's specific health needs. Our anesthetic agent (Isoflurane) is reported to be ten times safer in all patients than other anesthetic agents.

At Blue Springs Animal Hospital, we are committed to making your pet as comfortable as possible during their procedure and recovery. We utilize the very best pain management medications and techniques available. While your pet is in the hospital their pain will be managed with injectable medications. We will send additional medication home to keep them comfortable in the few days after their surgery.

The surgery is performed in our private operating suite, by one of our veterinarians. The doctors use surgery masks, caps and gowns. They have scrubbed and gloved before surgery, and they use a sterilized surgical instrument pack on each patient to help prevent postsurgical infections.

The operating suite at BSAH is equipped with audio patient cardiac and respiratory monitors, blood pressure monitors, gas anesthetic machines, oxygen, IV Infusion pumps, CO2 laser, electrocautery, emergency drugs, and a competent, caring staff of licensed veterinary technicians.

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Very little care is required at home after the surgery. Skin sutures are removed by us at no additional charge in 13 – 14 days. We do ask that your pet be restricted in activity for the first few days. The incision area should be kept as clean and dry as possible (no bathing or swimming until the sutures are removed).

We strive at Blue Springs Animal Hospital to perform the spay and all surgical procedures with the highest surgical standards set forth by the veterinary profession. If you have any other questions about the procedure or your pet, please don't hesitate to ask our trained staff or one of our doctors. Whenever you are ready to schedule your pet's spay operation, just call. Our receptionist will be happy to set up the appointment.