

SPAYING YOUR PET

Brookside
VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Cedar Heights
PET CLINIC

*We would love to show you our entire facility.
Schedule a tour today!*



What is a Spay?

A spay, also known as an ovariectomy or ovariectomy is a surgical procedure on female dogs and cats to render them infertile.

How is a Spay Performed?

A spay is a sterile surgical procedure performed under general anesthesia. Once asleep, your pet's abdomen will be shaved and scrubbed using a germicidal surgical solution. During the procedure, both ovaries and the uterus are located and removed. The blood vessels that supply these organs are ligated and the body wall and skin layers are then sutured close.

What are the Benefits of Spaying my Pet?

There are significant benefits to be gained from spaying your pet. Spaying prevents the following:

- Unwanted pregnancy or heat cycles
- Mammary (breast) cancer. Females spayed prior to their first estrus cycle have a significantly reduced risk of developing mammary cancer, a common cancer in females.
- Uterine Infections (pyometra). Pyometra is a life threatening infection within the uterus that affects 25% of intact (non-spayed) females by age 10.
- Ovarian and uterine tumors.
- Roaming while in heat. Female pets often try to leave home to in search of males. Pets can get lost or injured if they find a way out of your watch.
- Frequent urination while in heat. Females in heat urinate often to attract male dogs with the scent of their urine. This can result in urine on your carpet or furniture.

- Irritability during the heat cycle. The hormonal changes that occur while your pet is experiencing their heat cycle can make them nervous and irritable. Some females experience pain due to ovulation.

How do I prepare my Pet for a Spay?

- Do not offer food or water after 10 pm the night before surgery.
- If your pet is on any medications, please consult your veterinarian about if/when to administer.

Surgery Day

- We like to have our surgery patients dropped off between 8-9 am on the day of surgery.
- We recommend Pre-anesthetic blood tests for all procedures that require a general anesthesia. This testing helps the doctor identify any problems that may increase the risk of anesthesia and surgery. These results also aid the doctor in determining the appropriate anesthesia plan for your pet.
- We perform most surgeries in the morning. We will do our best to keep you updated during your pet's stay and are happy to have you call and check in at any point.
- All of our patients are administered appropriate pain management.





There are some things must be absolutely standard in every spay, regardless of the cost. Unfortunately, this is not the case in our area.

- Pain medication and gas anesthesia should be used on every patient. Believe it or not, some veterinary clinics rely on injectable anesthetic agents which are highly unpredictable and difficult to manage.
- Sterile and clean surgical instruments. An autoclave to properly sterilize surgical instruments should be the standard. Unfortunately, in our area it is not.
- Dedicated sterile surgical space. Ask to see where the procedure will be performed!
- Surgical monitoring systems. We are able to monitor all the essential levels including; % of oxygenation in blood, blood pressure, CO2 levels, electrocardiogram, temperature, and respiration rate. Our monitors are no different than the ones used in human surgery. Some veterinary clinics do not have any form of monitoring. Ask!
- Pre-Anesthetic blood testing. We have a full lab suite in house.

At Home Care After Surgery

- Food and water. Start slow. Smaller more frequent meals and limited access to large amounts of water can help prevent your pet from getting sick when they first return home.
- Incision. Your pet may or may not have skin sutures. Look at your pet's incision when she is dismissed from the hospital. Watch the incision line and the skin around it for increased redness, heat, or any discharge. Call the hospital if you see any changes. The incision should be kept dry for 10 days.
- Activity. The doctor may make specific recommendations, but pet's should be on a leash when outside for the first 7 days. Running, jumping, and stairs should be avoided for 7-10 days.
- Medications. Be sure to give any prescribed medications as directed.

Not all Spays are the same!

A spay is one of the most common procedures performed in a veterinary hospital. Consequentially, a spay is one of the most shopped for veterinary surgeries. We often have people call and ask about our price for this procedure. Understand that although this procedure is considered routine, an ovariohysterectomy is a major abdominal surgery, compared to a woman having a hysterectomy. Unfortunately in Iowa, there is not a Veterinary Standard of Care. In other words, comparing the cost of this procedure is not always apples to apples.

