



Ashland Animal Hospital

Progressive Compassionate Pet Care

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Ovariohysterectomy (Spaying) in Cats

General Information

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying of a female cat. The procedure consists of the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. If the ovaries are not removed, the bothersome heat periods still occur even though pregnancy is no longer possible. The surgery is usually performed at 6 months to 9 months of age, before the first heat period.

Although it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is a major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique.

Prevention of pregnancy and heat periods is the main reason for the surgery, but the procedure is also performed in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and uterine cancer.

What Are The Advantages?

- There will be no more heat periods.
- There will be no unwanted kittens.
- There is less chance of mammary gland cancer.
- There is very little chance of uterine disease.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will it make my cat lazy? No. Obesity is caused by excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.
2. Will it change her disposition, personality, or intelligence? Cats' personalities do not fully develop until about 1 year of age. If there is a personality change after spaying at an early age, it would have occurred without surgery.
3. Shouldn't my cat have a litter first? No. There is no advantage in allowing your cat to have a litter of kittens.

Important Considerations Before and After Surgery

- Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery.
- Restrict your cats' activity for _____ days after surgery.
- Suture removal is/is not necessary.
- Your cat will be evaluated for suture removal in ____ days.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- Your cat removes a suture or otherwise irritates the incision.
- Your cat refuses to eat or is depressed after the first day home.
- Your cat's general health changes.