

# The Range Animal Hospital

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Advanced  
Diagnostics, Medicine  
Surgery, Dentistry, &  
Trauma Care  
for  
Large & Small Animals

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Spaying Your Dog

The cost for a dog spay is \$180.00 for dogs weighing less than 40# and \$190.00 for dogs over 40 #.

There is a small additional charge if your dog is pregnant, or over two years old. Please ask for a quote.

Your dog will be admitted between 7:30AM and 9AM the day of her surgery. Most dogs go home the same day between 4PM and 5PM.

I hope this information helps you, and please call 932-3531 or 1-888-380-6319 (toll free) for an appointment or if you have any further questions.

# Ovariohysterectomy in Dogs

## General Information

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying or neutering a female dog. The procedure consists of surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. If the ovaries are not removed, the bothersome heat periods still occur even though pregnancy is impossible. Surgery is usually performed at 6 months of age.

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

Prevention of pregnancy and heat periods are the main reason for the surgery, but the procedure is often necessary in treating severe uterine infections; ovarian or uterine tumors, and some hormonal skin disorders.

## What are the Advantages?

There will be no more heat periods.

There will be no unwanted puppies.

Pyometritis, a serious uterine infection will not occur.

Mammary gland cancer seldom develops in dogs spayed before their first heat.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Will it make my dog fat and lazy? -- **No**. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.

Will it change her personality, disposition or intelligence? -- **No**. Dogs' personalities do not fully develop until 1-2 years of age. If there is a personality change in a dog neutered at a young

age, it would have occurred without surgery.

Shouldn't my dog have a litter first? -- **No**. There is no advantage in allowing your dog to have a litter of puppies.

Are there any problems associated with spaying? -- A very small percentage of dogs have trouble holding their urine as they become older. This can be controlled with medication.

## Surgery? I'm scared!

With advances in sterile technique and gas anesthesia, veterinary surgery is **extremely safe**, and every precaution before, during and after surgery will be taken. Dr. Martinson, our staff surgeon, has over 20 years of experience in the operating room and has performed this procedure **several thousand times**. Also, we do this procedure as an **outpatient surgery**. Our patients usually go home the day of their surgery. There are, however, a few simple procedures you can carry out at home to minimize risks and prevent unnecessary problems.

## Important Considerations Before Surgery:

Good nutrition is very important to reduce surgical stress and aids prompt recovery. If you have not already done so, discuss your dog's diet with the doctor or veterinary technician.

Your dog should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery. If you are in doubt, check with your doctor or veterinary technician before surgery.

If your dog is in heat, it is best to delay surgery until her heat period is over. A dog in heat

usually requires a bigger incision and has a small additional risk of hemorrhage. A spay should be a routine procedure. Let's keep it that way

If your dog is taking medication or has an existing health problem, inform the doctor or veterinary technician before surgery.

Anesthetics are best given on an empty stomach. Do not feed your pet for 8 hours before surgery. Water may be given up to 1 hour before surgery.

Exercise your dog before bringing her to the hospital, making sure she urinates and moves her bowels. Exercise her again when you arrive at the hospital.

## Important Considerations After Surgery:

Restrict your dog's activity for 7 days after surgery.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

If there is swelling, redness or drainage at the incision.

Your dog licks or chews the incision.

Your dog refuses to eat or seems depressed after the first day home.

There is a change in your dog's general health.

## Other things you need to know:

Dr. Martinson has developed a technique that requires a **very small incision**. All of the sutures are buried and dissolve after several weeks. As a result most dogs spayed at the Range Animal Hospital **do not need to return for suture removal**. We will tell you if your dog is one of the few that does.