

Spaying your female cat

What is an ovariohysterectomy?

An ovariohysterectomy is the complete removal of the ovaries and uterus to stop hormone production and eliminate the risk of uterine infection.

How to be prepared for my animal's surgery?

You can offer your pet a half-portion, of their regular meal, before midnight the day before, or a quarter of their food portion before 7 AM the morning of the appointment. This will allow your dog to remain fed but not have a full stomach during the procedure. It is important to leave water available to your pet at all times, even if they are fasting from food. It is crucial to ensure that the animal remains hydrated.

You may want to purchase a pre-operative shirt (note that we have them in stock at the clinic) or a suitable collar (Kong Cloud) to prevent your pet from licking the surgical wound. Otherwise, an Elizabethan collar will be required.

What happens when my pet arrives?

Plan about 15-30 minutes when you bring your pet in for their surgery appointment. A brief pre-operative examination will be performed, and we will have you sign the surgical authorization form.

If you have opted for a pre anaesthetic blood test, it will be performed before proceeding with the anaesthesia. The preanaesthetic profile is recommended, but not mandatory. It allows the veterinarian to verify the blood count (white blood cells, red blood cells, platelets), kidney and liver function, protein and blood glucose levels to ensure that the drugs administered will be adequately eliminated by the body. If an abnormality is detected, the veterinarian will notify you.

What will happen the day of the surgery?

The pre-operative exam will be completed by the veterinarian. A patch of fur will be shaved on a leg to install an intravenous catheter. A sedation will be administered to your pet. It will then be put under general anaesthesia, which means she will be put to sleep using a judicious combination of injectable drugs and anaesthetic gas. All vital signs will be closely monitored using anaesthetic monitoring devices (heart rate, respiratory rate, blood oxygen levels, blood pressure, body temperature) until she wakes up.

During the spay, the abdominal area will be shaved and disinfected. The surgical wound consists of an incision in the center of the abdomen. Depending on the veterinarian, sutures or surgical glue may be used to close the wound.

When your pet is fully awake, an Animal Health Technician (AHT) will contact you to give you an update and confirm the time for the discharge appointment.

What to do when my animal returns home?

When you come to pick up your pet, you will meet an AHT who will discuss post-operative care and show you the medication to administer at home. It is important to keep your pet indoors (if she goes outdoors) and at rest for 10-14 days and monitor the healing of the surgical wound. Limit physical activity, remove toys in the house, and ensure your pet does not lick the wound.

Suture removal will be necessary with a technician 10-14 days after the procedure. This follow-up appointment is free of charge.

What are the risks of complications?

The risks of complications related to surgery are rare. The most common is an infection at the surgical site.

The risks of complications related to anaesthesia are also very rare. However, it is important to note that general anaesthesia is never without the risk of cardiorespiratory arrest. Therefore, when you bring your pet in, we will ask you in advance to make the decision regarding whether to start resuscitation maneuvers if necessary. Mobilization of the entire medical team is necessary to increase the chances of survival. Afterwards, it may be necessary for your pet to be transferred, at your expense, to an emergency center for 24/7 monitoring, depending on its overall condition.

Thank you for your trust!
