



Ark Animal Hospital
Ovariohysterectomy Surgical Discharge Instructions

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical name for the procedure that your dog has just undergone. Commonly known as spaying, this surgery involves the removal of both ovaries and the uterus.

Home Care Instructions:

- **Please remove the small bandage on your pet's forelimb one hour after arriving home.** This is where the intravenous catheter was placed prior to surgery.
- **Please monitor surgical site daily for any signs of swelling, bleeding, discharge, or separation of the wound edges.** If any of these are noted call Ark Animal Hospital immediately for a recheck exam. Some minor bruising will be noted around the surgical incision site, this is normal.
- **Keep the incision site clean and dry for 10 days.** If your pet lives outdoors, please make every possible effort to keep them indoors until your next follow up exam.
- **If your pet is licking or chewing at incision site,** an Elizabethan collar is recommended.
- **Your dog has stitches buried under the skin that will dissolve** so you do NOT have to come back for removal of stitches.
- **If your dog was in heat at the time of surgery** she will need to stay away from intact male dogs for 2 week to prevent possible injury.

Exercise Restrictions:

- **PLEASE NOTE: Your pet has undergone a surgical procedure. Even with pain relieving medications there may still be some post-operative discomfort.** Please use caution when handling your pet. Children should not be allowed contact with your pet until your pet's behavior has returned to normal.
- **No running, jumping, climbing or swimming for 10 days.** Leash walk only to go potty outside. Please refrain from long walks for the next 7 days.
- **Please do not bathe pet for 7-10 days.**

Feeding:

- **Please reduce feeding portion to half the normal amount for the 12 hours following surgery.** Food, water and medication may be offered the evening after surgery. Please feed your pet her regular diet to avoid any gastrointestinal upset.
- **Another important thing to remember is that spaying your dog causes hormonal changes that can lower her metabolism** and cause her to gain weight more easily. A good rule of thumb is to reduce her food intake by 20%.

Anesthesia can sometimes make patients nauseous. You may find, once returning home, that she doesn't want to eat, or she may vomit. This is

acceptable for the first 24 hours after surgery. If she refuses to eat beyond that time or continues to vomit, please **call Ark Animal Hospital immediately at 863-937-9021**. Please avoid using any medications that are not on these discharge orders. Please consult with Ark Animal Hospital prior to using any other medications to avoid any possibility of developing a drug reaction.

Thank you,

Susan Rodgers, DVM