

Alpine Animal Hospital

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Ovariohysterectomy (Spay)

Post-Surgical Instructions

General Information:

Ovariohysterectomy is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. Prevention of pregnancy and heat periods are the main reasons for the surgery, but the procedure is occasionally necessary in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian or uterine tumors, and some skin disorders as well. Though it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are there any problems associated with spaying? A very small percentage of dogs will have trouble holding their urine as they become older. This is normally controllable with medication.

Is there benefit to spaying in addition to eliminating the heat cycles and the chances of pregnancy? Yes! Spayed female dogs and cats have much lower incidence of mammary tumors than intact females and no chance of uterine or ovarian cancer.

Home Care:

Feeding:

****After arriving home allow your pet to calm down for about one half hour****

Offer a small amount of water at first, followed by 1/2 of your pet's regular dinner. Do not be alarmed if she does not want to eat at all tonight. Do not give her any food she is not used to tonight. Normal feeding may resume tomorrow.

Exercise & Bathing:

Your pet is to be kept on a leash whenever outdoors for one week. Restrict her activity for about 14 days. Do not allow her to run. Do not allow your pet outside unattended. Do not bathe your pet until her sutures are removed.

Surgical Considerations:

Monitor your pet closely at home following surgery. If you notice any vomiting, weakness, decrease in appetite or any other problems, please call us.

Dogs are placed under gas anesthesia. A small tube is placed down her throat and can sometimes cause irritation for a day or two. If there is any persistent coughing for more than 2 days give us a call.

Check her abdominal incision at least once each day. If you notice any redness, swelling or discharge, please call and find a time for us to have a look at her. Do Not allow your pet to lick the incision site.

Sutures are to be removed by us in 10-14 days. You may schedule an appointment at any time.

Finally:

The most important thing to remember is to let her rest following her surgery. The quieter she is for the next 10 days, the faster she will heal.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet's care!
The Doctors & The staff of Alpine Animal Hospital