



## SPAY AND NEUTER DESCRIPTION

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### **Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)**

This is the operation done to female dogs and cats so that they cannot have puppies or kittens. During the operation the pet is under general anesthesia so that they cannot feel any pain or move. An incision or cut is made into the abdomen and the ovaries and uterus are removed. The incision is closed with several layers of sutures or stitches, all under the skin (unless otherwise noted). These sutures do not need to be removed and will dissolve on their own. If there are external sutures, they can be removed in 7–10 days by your regular veterinarian or they will eventually dissolve on their own.

### **In heat or Pregnant Spay**

If your dog or cat is in heat or pregnant at the time of the surgery, we will still perform the procedure. The incision will probably be longer and your pet may be more tender. There is also the potential for more blood loss and more surgical complications. If your pet was in heat, you must keep her away from un-neutered males for about one month. They cannot get pregnant, but they will still attract males and can become injured if a male attempts to breed her.

### **Neuter**

This is the operation done to male dogs and cats so that they cannot produce sperm and father puppies and kittens. During the operation the pet is under general anesthesia so that they cannot feel any pain or move. In dogs, the testes are removed through one small incision or cut just in front of the scrotum. This incision is closed with internal sutures or stitches (unless otherwise noted). If there are external sutures, they can be removed in 7–10 days by your regular veterinarian or they will eventually dissolve on their own. In cats, two small incisions are made in the scrotum to remove the testes. These incisions are not closed; they are left open to drain and heal naturally. The scrotum is not removed in dogs or cats.

### **Cryptorchid (Retained Teste)**

If one or both of your pet's testes did not descend into the scrotum, we will have to remove it through another skin or abdominal incision or cut. A teste that is retained within the abdomen requires an abdominal incision that is similar to a spay. Again, the incision will be closed with internal sutures or stitches unless otherwise noted. Retained testes must be removed. Pets with retained testes can still breed and they can have other related medical problems.