

# Spaying / Neutering of Dogs and Cats

Unless you are planning to show or breed your pet, we recommend that you have her spayed or him neutered at about **6 months** of age. Besides the numerous health and behavioral benefits to be gained, you will eliminate the risk of unwanted litters of puppies or kittens. To help in making this decision you may wish to review “Know the Facts BEFORE Breeding Your Dog” and “Top 10 Worst Reasons Not to Spay/Neuter Your Cat” which can be found in the Client Handout section at [WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com](http://WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com). Also on our website you can find step-by-step photos of actual spay and neuter procedures by clicking on the Virtual Surgery button.

**Surgery scheduling-** At the final puppy or kitten check-up we will discuss spaying or neutering your pet. We can schedule the appointment for the procedure as you leave that day or you may call us to schedule. We perform surgeries Monday through Friday. The night before the procedure, you will need to fast your pet after 8:00 pm. It is fine to let your pet drink water until admission to the hospital. On the day of the procedure, you will admit your pet to the hospital between 8:30 and 9:00 am and pick him or her up between 4:00 and 6:00 pm the same day. Cats which are also being declawed will be discharged from the hospital the following day.

## **SPAYING (ovariohysterectomy) - FEMALE DOGS and CATS**

Ovariohysterectomy is a surgery in which the ovaries and uterus are removed through an incision into the abdomen, thus sterilizing the pet. The procedure is performed under general anesthesia. A pre-anesthetic blood panel is performed to assess your pet's ability to undergo anesthesia. Prior to surgery, the pet is given an injection of a morphine-type drug for pain control. Most pets will also go home on oral pain medication for the first day or two after surgery. Some of the advantages of spaying your pet include:

- Eliminates the chance of an unwanted litter
- Eliminates the behavioral and physical changes associated with heat cycles
- Eliminates the chance of developing a pyometra (a life-threatening infection of the uterus)
- Decreases the risk of mammary tumors (breast cancer)

## **NEUTERING (orchietomy or orchidectomy) - MALE DOGS and CATS**

Orchietomy is a surgery in which the testicles are removed through an incision near the scrotum, thus sterilizing the pet. The procedure is performed under general anesthesia. After admission to the hospital, a pre-anesthetic blood panel is performed to assess your pet's ability to undergo anesthesia. Prior to surgery, the pet is given an injection of a morphine-type drug for pain control. Most pets will also go home on an oral pain medication for the first day or two after surgery. Some of the advantages of neutering your pet include:

- Eliminates the chance of an unwanted litter
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer
- Eliminates the risk of benign prostatic enlargement
- Eliminates your pet's instinct to go find a mate, thus decreasing the risk of being lost or injured
- Decreases the risk of urine marking behavior such as spraying and leg lifting

If you ever have questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Visit us online at [www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com](http://www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com).

### **WHITE BEAR ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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