

# DOG SPAY

We offer two techniques for sterilizing female dogs at Sault Ste. Marie Animal Clinic depending on their size:

## Lap Spay (Laparoscopic Ovariectomy):

For dogs greater than 15 lbs

Surgical removal of ovaries using laparoscopic instruments and surgical video equipment

Smaller incisions, less blood loss and trauma to tissues, less 'stretching' of abdominal muscles - therefore less pain and discomfort associated with the procedure and a faster recovery. Because ovaries are the source of female hormones, she will no longer go into heat, her uterus will shrink and become inactive and she can't become pregnant.

## Traditional Spay (Ovariohysterectomy):

For dogs less than 15lbs

Surgical removal of uterus and ovaries through one incision in the lower abdomen.

Use of surgical laser instead of traditional scalpel minimizes pain and discomfort, promotes faster healing.

Both procedures involve clipping (shaving) of the hair of the lower abdomen and general anesthesia. They may or may not have sutures in the skin when they go home (there will be sutures under the skin!).

When your puppy is in for their surgery, it is a good time to:

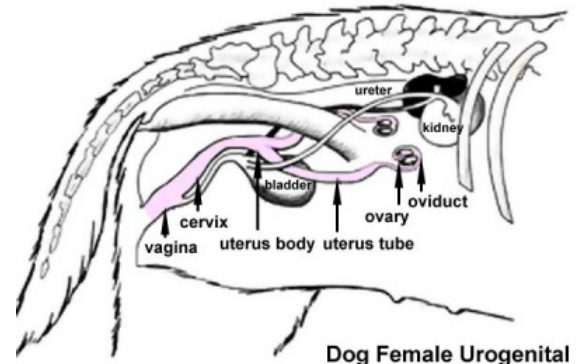
- have a **microchip** implanted
- remove remaining baby teeth
- 'remove floppy' rear dew claws
- correct umbilical hernias
- For larger breed dogs, it is also a good time to consider a 'gastropexy' to prevent GDV or twisted stomach.

For added safety, we recommend a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screen** prior to your pet undergoing general anesthesia and surgery.

**When should I schedule the surgery?** We like to book the appointment for your puppy's spay when she is in for her final booster/rabies vaccination at four months of age. The recommended age for surgery will vary with puppy's breed/size but probably somewhere between six months to a year of age. Your puppy will be admitted to the hospital between 8:00-8:30 the morning of the procedure and likely be discharged late afternoon of the same day.

**At what age should my puppy be spayed?** The debate continues!! Traditionally, dogs were spayed and neutered at six months of age - prior to reaching puberty - so that the procedure is technically easier to do and associated with fewer complications. For female dogs, it virtually eliminates the risk of developing mammary cancer as she gets older. Some shelters and breeders perform 'pediatric' spays and neuters on very young puppies so that the pet is sterilized prior to being adopted into a new home. This is an effort to eliminate unwanted pregnancy and reduce pet overpopulation.

**Recent research** suggests that there may be some health benefits to allowing larger breed puppies to go through puberty before spaying or neutering. This appears to be particularly important to promote healthy growth and development of bones and joints. The bottom line at this time is that **there is no 'one size fits all' answer as to what age to spay.** Rest assured, we will make a recommendation specific to your puppy based on breed, predicted size and lifestyle - usually between 6 months and a year of age.



**Our top priority is keeping your pet safe and comfortable:**

- **Comprehensive, multi-stage anesthetic protocol** including sedatives and pain killers for your pet's mental and physical comfort
- Patients are placed on warming pads and **closely monitored** throughout procedure using a combination of advanced heart and respiratory monitors as well as experienced "hands on" observation
- We follow **rigorous sterile technique**, always use separate surgical packs for each patient, individual packets of sterilized suture material and surgical drapes and the veterinarian will wear a sterilized surgical gown, gloves, cap and mask

