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OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY OF THE CAT(SPAY)

Spaying of the female cat is the removal of her ovaries and uterus (ovariohysterectomy). The operation is done at our clinic Monday through Friday as an outpatient surgery. A great deal of care is used to maintain your pet's health during her stay at our hospital. All pets receive pre-operative blood tests and a physical exam prior to receiving any anesthesia. IV catheters are placed as an added safety precaution and for the administration of IV fluids prior to and during the procedure. All patients are monitored very carefully using the latest equipment, by well-trained staff and certified veterinary technicians. All are given pain relief medication before and after the procedure as well as being sent home with medication for their continued recovery at home.

BENEFITS OF SPAYING

Spaying will prevent your cat from ever getting pregnant. We strongly encourage adoption from humane societies as millions of pets are needlessly destroyed each year from unwanted pregnancies. **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO MEDICAL BENEFIT TO THE FEMALE CAT TO HAVE A LITTER OF KITTENS.**

Spaying prevents your cat from going into heat, which occurs as multiple episodes during early spring to fall. During these episodes your cat may do a lot of crying or meowing, rub her head on things, crouch with her rump elevated and try to escape out of the house. Spaying before she goes into her first heat also greatly decreases their chances of developing breast tumors. When cats develop breast tumors 90% of them are malignant cancers. Uterine and ovarian cancers can also develop in cats that haven't been spayed.

As intact female cats get older, they can also develop uterine infections. These can become serious, life-threatening illnesses. Treatment consists of performing an ovariohysterectomy (spay), but at a much higher risk to the patient.

Spaying does **NOT** cause a change in temperament or make your pet gain weight, most cats will only eat what they need. However, since the operation is performed when the pet's growth has slowed down, for those cats that like to eat we'll need to monitor their body weight closely and if necessary change the amount of food she is offered.

THE BEST TIME FOR SPAYING

We recommend spaying your pet at 6 months of age, before her first heat cycle. Unlike female dogs, surgery may be performed while your cat is in heat.

POSTOPERATIVE CARE

Your cat should be confined in the house and to a small room for 7-10 days following the surgery. Your pet may be left home by herself during these days immediately following surgery as long as she's confined. Most cats may resume normal activity after 10-14 days. Sutures are placed beneath the surface of the skin and will be absorbed over time.