

## **WHY SHOULD YOU SPAY YOUR FEMALE DOG?**

- Females usually go into heat twice a year and during this time they can be very messy, will attract male dogs and must be under constant supervision to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
- To reduce the risk of mammary (breast) cancer. Animals spayed before their first heat cycle reduce the risk of mammary cancer to almost 0%. Mammary cancer, as in humans, can be fatal.
- To prevent a life threatening uterine infection called pyometra. The treatment for pyometra is surgical removal of the uterus and is much more risky than a normal spay.
- To prevent unwanted pregnancies. Millions of animals are euthanized each year, and by bringing new puppies into the world you are taking away homes from animals that are already here.

## **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SPAYING A DOG?**

A spay is actually an ovariectomy or OHE. This means that the uterus and the ovaries are removed. The surgery is done under general anesthetic using a combination of injectable and gas anesthetic. We give them pain medication before, during and after the surgery and also send them home on pain medication. The patient is kept overnight and will be sent home the next day. If skin sutures are used, they will need to be removed in 10-14 days. Most dogs recover very quickly from surgery and will need to be kept quiet (no running or jumping) for 14 days.

## **WHY SHOULD YOU NEUTER YOUR MALE DOG?**

- To prevent roaming (running away from home) and marking (urinating on objects inside or outside) behavior.
- To prevent chronic prostate infections, testicular tumors and rectal tumors. Part of the treatment for each of these things is neutering and it is much riskier to neuter an older dog than a young healthy dog.
- To prevent unwanted pregnancies. Millions of animals are euthanized each year and by bringing new puppies into this world you are taking homes away from animals that are already here.

## **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN NEUTERING YOUR DOG?**

Neutering is also referred to as castration. The procedure involves removal of both testicles. It is done under general anesthetic. The patient is given pain medication before, during and after surgery and they are also sent home on pain medication. The patient generally goes home the same day as the surgery. If skin sutures are used, they will need to be removed in 10-14 days.

Most dogs recover quickly from surgery and will need to be kept quiet (no running or jumping) for 14 days.

## **WAITING TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR DOG**

Recently, research has shown that delaying spaying or neutering may prevent joint disease and other medical issues. Please discuss the best time to neuter or spay your pet at your appointment.

## **RECOVERY AFTER SURGERY**

After surgery, your pet will need to have restricted activity and will need to be kept dry (no swimming or baths). You will need to monitor the incision site for redness or discharge. If your pet is licking the incision, they will need to wear an E-collar. We will need to recheck your pet 7-10 days after surgery.