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### **Ovariohysterectomy (spaying) in Cats**

Ovariohysterectomy is a major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia, and sterile operating technique. The ovaries and uterus are surgically removed, thus preventing annoying estrus or “heat” cycles, and possible pregnancy following breeding with a male cat. We recommend that ovariohysterectomy be performed at 5-6 months of age, prior to the first “heat” cycle.

The advantages of spaying your pet include:

- the elimination of estrus or “heat” cycles.
- the prevention of pregnancy.
- the prevention of a uterine infection, more common in older cats.
- the prevention of ovarian and/or uterine tumors.
- a decreased incidence of mammary gland or breast cancers in cats spayed prior to their first estrus or “heat” cycle.
- the prevention of some skin disorders.

#### **Important Considerations Before and After Surgery**

- Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites, and all vaccinations should be current prior to surgery.
- We recommend heartworm preventative medication for our feline patients. Please ask your veterinarian for information.
- Your pet should not receive any food nor water by mouth for 12 hours before admittance for surgery.
- Limit your cat’s exercise or activity for 10-14 days following surgery.
- Keep your pet’s incision dry and clean.
- Your cat will be evaluated at our veterinary hospital for suture removal in 10-14 days. Please schedule an appointment.

Notify your veterinarian if:

- your cat irritates its incision and or removes ~~any~~ sutures.
- your pet is listless or refuses to eat after the first day home.
- your cat vomits or refuses to drink water.
- your cat’s general health changes.