



MARLTON ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.A.

“WE CARE”

PAUL LUKIANOVICH, VMD

9 W. MAIN STREET
MARLTON, NJ 08053
(856) 983-5350
Fax: (856) 983-3655

Spay / Neuter Information

What is a Spay?

A spay is a sterile abdominal surgical procedure which consists of the removal of a female animal's ovaries and uterus resulting in sterilization. Upon completion of this surgery, a female pet will no longer have heat cycles and will not be able to reproduce.

What is a Neuter?

A neuter is a sterile surgical procedure, which consists of removal of a male animal's testicles resulting in sterilization. Upon completion of this surgery, the male's reproductive interest will be limited or totally absent (depending on the age at which the surgery was performed and his need to establish dominance), and he will not be able to reproduce.

How will surgical sterilization affect my pet?

Your pet's desires to roam, fight, and scent mark its territory by urination will decrease or disappear. His or her focus in life will become your home and family rather than procreation. Frustration due to sexual needs during heat cycles remaining unmet will be eliminated. For owners of female pets, the problems associated with attraction of neighborhood male suitors will cease, for example: scent marking, destroying property, vocalizing, fighting, and unwanted litters. Also, the problems associated with bleeding during heat cycles will be eliminated.

What are the benefits of sterilization?

Your pet will be calmer, more trainable, and easier to live with. Female pets will not be faced with breast tumors if spayed before their first heat cycle, and infections of the reproductive organs later in life, which are very serious and potentially fatal, will not occur. Male animals will not suffer the effect of constant fighting, and the potential for testicular and prostatic cancer or infection will be eliminated.

More importantly, no additional unwanted puppies and kittens will need to be destroyed due to indiscriminant breeding.

Does my pet need to go through a heat cycle or have a litter first?

Absolutely not! There are no medical, physical, psychological or emotional reasons to substantiate this idea. In fact, there is a tremendous amount of data to suggest that doing so increases risk of disease or other complications.

Will my pet become fat and lazy? Will there be a personality change?

Your pet will gain weight only if they are overfed! Neutered and spayed animals may require less food, but do not generally gain weight simply by virtue of having been sterilized. Pets need attention, stimulation and exercise, otherwise they will tend to become “couch potatoes” in much the same way people do. This is a reflection of their lifestyle and not their

reproductive status. The high energy levels associated with breeding behavior will be eliminated, however, and the feeding quantities may need to be adjusted to compensate for this change.

There are absolutely no negative side effects to your pet's personality. If changes do occur, they will be positive ones that will enhance your pet's value as a companion.

What is the hospital procedure for these surgeries?

Your pet will be admitted to the hospital on a weekday morning between 8:00-9:00 a.m. after having had all food, but not water, withheld after 10:00 p.m. the preceding night. Surgery will be performed on the day of admission and your pet will generally be discharged from the hospital that same evening. Surgery is done using sterile technique and an anesthesia nurse is in constant attendance with your pet during all aspects of the surgery. Written post-operative instructions will be given to you at the time of discharge. Suture removal, when applicable, will be scheduled for approximately ten to twelve days after surgery – there usually is no additional charge for this procedure.

If you have any additional questions, or if you would like to schedule a surgical appointment for your pet, our reception staff will be glad to assist you.