

Victoria Animal Hospital

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CANINE & FELINE SPAY

Home Care Instructions and Situations that can Occur

The procedure is called a SPAY, or more technically, an ovariohysterectomy. All of the female reproductive organs – including the ovaries and uterus – were removed.

Possible Complications – Notify the hospital if any of the following occur:

Vomiting after 24 hours at home

Refusal to eat after 24 hours at home

Signs of severe pain (some mild discomfort is to be expected)

Excessive licking or chewing at surgery site

Bleeding, swelling, or discharge from the surgery site

Lickers and Chewers – occasionally, pets will lick and chew at their incision site excessively. Since tongues and teeth can do a lot of damage in just a short time, this must be prevented. If she continues to lick and/or chew at her incision site, it will be necessary to fit her with an *Elizabethan Collar (E-Collar)* until the sutures are removed and/or the wound is healed. These are available from us at nominal extra cost.

AFTERCARE

Keep her dry and clean until sutures are removed.

Clean the incision area only if it gets dirty.

Use hydrogen peroxide with gauze.

Hold all food and water until the next day.

Restrict running, jumping and climbing.

No swimming or bathing for the next 10-14 days, while sutures are in.

Check the incision daily for redness, swelling, or discharge.

****If any of these signs occur, please give us a call.****

Recheck is set 10 to 14 days after the surgical procedure. There is no extra charge for this service, unless sedation is required.

A pain injection has been given. Pets who receive post-operative pain relief seem to feel much better the next day. They eat more and they eat sooner, and therefore they seem to heal faster and return to normal sooner.

If your pet was in heat at the time of the ovariohysterectomy, the symptoms will finish out. Keep her away from males for at least 1 week. It takes about a week for the “SCENT” of heat to fade away. Obviously, a spayed female cannot become pregnant, but because of the delicate healing, internal female structures could be damaged if a male attempts to breed with her in the week following surgery.