



Neutering Female Dogs

Unless breeding is planned, it is recommended that female dogs are neutered for several reasons.

- Prevents unwanted pregnancy and false pregnancy
- Prevents endometriosis/pyometra – a common and serious disease
- Prevents ovarian cancer
- Dramatically reduces the chances of mammary cancer. To achieve the most benefit, dogs should be neutered before their second season. Neutering after the third season appears to provide NO reduction in the incidence of mammary cancer.

With a conventional spay, both the ovaries and uterus are removed (ovariohysterectomy). Studies have now shown that there is no advantage to removing the uterus as well as the ovaries. The ovaries can be removed laparoscopically (Key-hole) and this has several advantages over conventional surgery.

- Two tiny incisions (5-10mm) compared to the incision required for conventional surgery (several centimetres)
- No sutures required – means nothing for the patient to interfere with
- Less pain
- Quicker recovery times. Patients are rested 3 days on average before resuming normal exercise (compared to 10 days with conventional surgery)
- All the benefits of conventional surgery are obtained by removing the ovaries laparoscopically

The greatest benefits of laparoscopic ovariectomy are obtained in dogs weighing more than 5kg.