

## **Spay Information**

We at Catoosa Small Animal Hospital want to keep you as informed as possible about various issues we have common questions about. The following questions are frequently asked about the issue of spaying female dogs or cats.

### **Should I spay my pet?**

Absolutely! There is **no reason** not to spay your dog or cat – unless you **really** want puppies or kittens. Spaying at a young age reduces or eliminates the chance of mammary (breast) cancer, uterine infections, and other health problems.

### **When should I spay my pet?**

Typically we would recommend spaying around 6 months of age – before the first heat. Some cats can come into heat before that so it wouldn't hurt to spay them around 5 months of age. We can even spay younger than that if we are doing some other procedure that requires anesthetic. We would gladly recommend the ideal time for you to have your specific pet spayed.

### **Can I spay my pet if they are in heat or pregnant?**

Being in heat or pregnant does not preclude us from spaying your dog or cat. If pregnant we would prefer to do it early in the pregnancy as it is easier on your pet – and less expensive. A dog that is in heat **MUST BE KEPT AWAY FROM THE BOYS AFTER SURGERY!!!!** If a dog accidentally gets bred after surgery it can be **FATAL!** In short we can certainly spay at these times – it is more expensive but we do it all of the time.

### **Can my pet be active after surgery?**

Typically, dogs and cats that are spayed will slow down for a day or so after surgery on their own. Exercise or moving around will not cause their sutures to come out so we typically don't recommend strict confinement post surgically.

### **Can I feed or water my pet after I pick them up and get them home?**

Most animals – especially dogs – are a little nauseous after abdominal surgery. Therefore, we usually recommend only water the evening after surgery, and then food the next day. We don't want them to throw up on your new carpet or furniture!

### **Will my pet have stitches?**

We typically place several skin sutures that need to be removed in 10 days. There are also a couple of suture layers under the skin that will dissolve on their own. It is important to check the incision daily for any swelling, infection, or missing sutures. Occasionally, we will put subcutaneous sutures that will dissolve and not need to be removed in pets that are hard for the owners to handle and bring back in – big dogs, barn cats, etc.

### **What happens when you spay my pet?**

A spay is a major abdominal surgery done under general anesthetic and strict surgical sterility. We completely remove the uterus and ovaries which will forever keep your pet from coming into heat or having puppies or kittens down the road.

### **What does it cost to spay my pet?**

Spays are kept artificially low in cost to encourage owners to have their pets spayed. Other abdominal surgical procedures typically cost from 5 – 10x more. Our prices at this time for spaying are as follows:

Dogs		Cats	
0 – 30#	\$100	Any size	\$95
30 – 60#	\$115		
60 – 90#	\$130		
90 – 120#	\$145		
120# & over	\$160		

### **Additional fees on top of the basic cost if needed:**

Extra pain medication **which we highly recommend** to last 4 days – depending on size - \$20 - \$35

Pre-operative blood work to check from potential problems before surgery - \$25 - \$35

In heat charge - \$20

Pregnancy charge - \$15 - \$100 depending on how far along your pet is in the pregnancy.

We would gladly give you an exact quote and explain any of these optional things if you desire.

Thank you – The Doctors and Staff of Catoosa Small Animal Hospital (266-4090).