

Female Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)

What does it involve?

The procedure consists of the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus and is usually performed at 6 months of age. Generally she will be able to go home with you the next day.

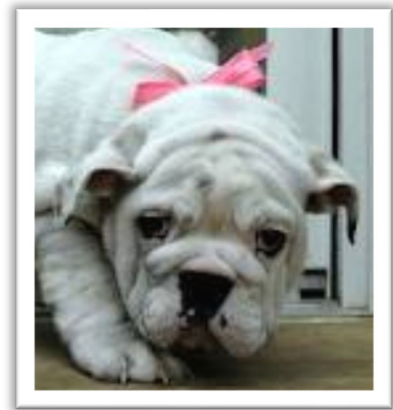
When should she be spayed?

The procedure is usually performed at 6 months of age. Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT better for her to go through her first heat cycle before being spayed. In fact, it puts her at higher risk of developing mammary cancer.

Why should I have my female dog spayed?

Spaying offers several advantages.

- The female's heat periods result in about two to three weeks of vaginal bleeding. This can be quite annoying if your dog is kept indoors. Male dogs are attracted from blocks away and, in fact, seem to come out of the woodwork. They seem to go over, around, and through many doors or fences. Your dog will have a heat period about every six months. Once your dog is spayed, heat periods no longer occur.
- In many cases, despite your best efforts, the female will become pregnant; spaying prevents unplanned litters of puppies.
- It has been proven that as the female dog gets older, there is a significant incidence of breast cancer and uterine infections (pyometras) if she has not been spayed. Spaying before she has any heat periods will virtually eliminate the chance of either. If you do not plan to breed your dog, we strongly recommend that she be spayed before her first heat period. This can be done anytime between four and six months of age.



But people say...

- That it will make her fat.
 - This is a common myth. Obesity is most often due to excess caloric intake and lack of exercise. Discussing diet at your spay discharge can help you keep your puppy a healthy weight.
- That it will change her personality.
 - Dogs personalities do not fully develop until 1-2 years of age. If anything, your puppy will become more focused on you and your family because her hormones driving her to seek out a mate will be diminished.

