

Laparoscopic Ovariectomy

Laparoscopy is the term given to examination of the abdominal or thoracic cavity, for either diagnostic or treatment purposes, with the use of an endoscopic camera. This keyhole approach can offer various advantages over traditional surgery. The procedure involves the placement of 2 or 3 ports through small 5mm incisions, rather than a single large incision associated with traditional surgery.

The advantages over conventional surgery include:

- Reduced pain from the surgical wounds
- Smaller surgical wounds
- Fewer stitches
- Faster return to normal activity and reduced scar formation
- Increased patient comfort post-operatively due to less traumatic surgery

Ovariectomy Procedure

The procedure involves the placement of 2 or 3 ports through the skin that are normally closed without the need for external stitches. In most pets there is no need to stay overnight, so your pet can recuperate at home.

The procedure involves the removal of the ovaries, leaving the uterus in place. Conventional spaying usually involves the removal of the ovaries together with the uterus (known as an ovario- hysterectomy). There is no evidence that leaving the uterus behind increases the chances of incontinence or womb infection in the future compared with conventional surgery.

We will generally recommend a re-examination 3-5 days post-surgery.

With all laparoscopic procedures, we ask for permission to convert to a traditional surgical approach during the procedure if we feel it would be necessary. This is only required if any unforeseen circumstances arise, which could put your pet at risk.

Timing for laparoscopic bitch spays are as recommended for traditional spays, normally 2-3 months following a season, as long as there is no marked mammary development or currently lactating.



Post-Operative Care:

We ask that you monitor your pet's demeanour and appetite over the next few days and contact us if you experience any problems. Your pet may be quieter for the first 24-48 hours after the anaesthetic but should return to normal soon after.

An adhesive dressing will normally be in place. This should be removed after 48 hours, or during the post-operative appointment, to allow for examination of the wounds. If the dressing becomes soiled please remove it and do not become concerned if the dressing falls off prior to removal.

Please examine the wounds daily for heat, redness, pain or discharge, if this is noted please contact us.

We advise either a pet t-shirt is worn at all times or a buster collar for 10-14 days to prevent interference of the wounds.

We ask that you restrict your pets exercise for 48 hours post-surgery to lead walks only and try to prevent any running or jumping. We ask that you ensure your pet does not go swimming, or is bathed, for 14 days post-surgery until the wounds have completely healed.

