

CYPRESS SQUARE ANIMAL CLINIC

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Spay/Ovariohysterectomy

There are several reasons a responsible pet owner has their pet surgically altered. Spaying a cat or dog involves the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus under a general anesthetic. This is an extremely common and relatively safe procedure. It is usually done around 6 months of age, at a time when the animal is old enough to increase anesthetic safety, but before the hormones have begun to release.

Spaying will first and foremost prevent the pet from being able to breed. There are thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens in our area alone. Pets will often escape the home to breed, and dogs have even been known to breed through a chain link fence. This desire to roam often leads to a beloved pet being injured or even killed in the street.

Spaying early can also help prevent the development of unwanted behaviors such as aggression and dominance, which usually start about 12 to 18 months of age. These behaviors are very difficult to control once started.

Other advantages to early spaying include the prevention of estrogen-induced mammary (breast) cancer. If the pet is spayed prior to the first heat cycle, approximately 90% of this type of cancer can be prevented. After the first heat cycle, this drops to 50%, and after the second heat cycle, it is unpreventable. Uterine and ovarian cancers can also be prevented, as well as a very severe life-threatening uterine infection, or pyometra. These conditions can be very expensive to treat, as well as very painful for the pet.

Studies have shown that early spaying of a pet in no way changes its growth and development or alters its present personality. There is also no advantage in letting a pet have a heat cycle or a litter before the spay.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please feel free to call our office at (281)469-9633.

Sincerely,
CSAC Staff