

Franktown Animal Clinic: Understanding Spaying and Its Benefits

What is Spaying?

Spaying is a surgical procedure for female pets where we gently remove their reproductive organs (ovaries and usually the uterus). This prevents pregnancy and eliminates heat cycles. At Franktown Animal Clinic, we treat every pet like family, using the highest standards of care to keep them safe and comfortable.

What is a Heat Cycle?

A heat cycle, or estrus, is when a female pet is fertile and can become pregnant. During this time, you might notice changes like increased vocalization, restlessness, and attraction to male pets.

- **How Long Does It Last?** Around 2-3 weeks.
- **How Often Does It Happen?** About every 6 months, but this can vary.

When Should You Spay Your Pet?

For your pet's health and safety, we recommend spaying at least 6 weeks after her last heat cycle. This timing helps reduce surgical risks, like excessive bleeding, and promotes smoother recovery. Spaying before the first heat cycle can also reduce the risk of certain health issues, such as mammary tumors. We're happy to discuss the best timing based on your pet's unique needs.

What Happens During a Spay Surgery?

Your pet's well-being is our top priority. Here's what you can expect:

- **Pre-Surgical Bloodwork:** Done before surgery to ensure your pet is healthy enough for anesthesia.
- **IV Catheter and IV Fluids:** To keep your pet hydrated and provide quick access for medications.
- **Anesthesia:** We use Isoflurane, a gentle and effective gas anesthetic, to keep your pet pain-free and fully asleep.
- **Cerenia Injection:** We recommend this anti-nausea injection to help your pet feel more comfortable afterward.
- **Medishirt Option:** A cozy alternative to the traditional E-collar, helping protect the surgical site gently.

Optional Procedure: Gastropexy for Deep-Chested Dogs

At Franktown Animal Clinic, we also offer **gastropexy** as an optional procedure for deep-chested dogs at the time of spay. Gastropexy is a surgical procedure where the stomach is tacked to the abdominal wall to prevent a life-threatening condition called **Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV)**, also known as bloat. GDV causes the stomach to twist, cutting off blood supply and trapping gas inside, which can be fatal without emergency surgery.

Benefits of Gastropexy:

- Significantly reduces the risk of GDV
- Provides peace of mind for owners of at-risk breeds
- Can be done safely during the spay procedure, minimizing the need for additional anesthesia in the future

Please note that gastropexy is an **additional cost**, and we're happy to discuss whether it's the right option for your dog.

Turn over for more information

Post-Operative Care: How to Help Your Pet Heal

Caring for your pet after surgery is simple but important:

1. **Rest is Key:** Limit activity for 10-14 days to help the incision heal.
2. **Keep the Incision Clean and Dry:** No baths until fully healed.
3. **Watch for Signs of Infection:** Look for redness, swelling, discharge, or excessive licking.
4. **Comfort with Pain Relief:** Give prescribed pain medication as directed.
5. **Follow-Up Visits:** Bring your pet back for check-ups to ensure proper healing.

Why Spay Your Pet?


Spaying isn't just about preventing litters. It's a loving choice that offers:

- Protection from uterine infections and reduced risk of mammary tumors
- Prevention of unwanted pregnancies
- Fewer behavioral challenges related to heat cycles

At Franktown Animal Clinic, we're honored to support you in making the best decisions for your pet's health. If you have questions or want to schedule a spay surgery, please reach out—we're here to help, every step of the way.

Franktown Animal Clinic

 7658 Burning Tree Drive, Franktown, CO 80116

 303-688-4690

 www.franktownanimalclinic.com

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