

## **WHY SHOULD YOU SPAY YOUR DOG?**

- Females usually go into heat twice a year and during this time, they can be very messy, will attract male dogs and must be under constant supervision to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
- To prevent unwanted pregnancies. Millions of animals are euthanized each year, and by bringing new puppies into the world we are taking away homes from animals that are already here.
- To reduce the risk of mammary cancer. Animals spayed before their first heat cycle will reduce the risk of mammary cancer to almost 0%. Mammary cancer, as in humans, can be fatal.
- To prevent a life threatening uterine infection called pyometra. The treatment for pyometra is surgery and is much more risky than a normal spay.

## **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SPAYING A DOG?**

A spay is actually an ovariectomy or OHE. This means that not only is the uterus removed, but also the ovaries. The surgery is done under general anesthetic using a combination of injectable and gas anesthetic. We give them pain medication prior to the surgery, after the surgery and also send them home on pain medication. The patient is kept overnight and will be sent home the next day. They will have sutures that will need to be removed in 10-14 days. Most dogs recover very quickly from the surgery and will need to be kept quiet (no running or jumping) until the sutures are removed.

## **WHY SHOULD YOU NEUTER YOUR DOG?**

- To prevent roaming behavior (running away from home) and marking behavior (urinating on objects in and out of the house).
- To prevent unwanted pregnancies. Millions of animals are euthanized each year and by bringing new puppies into this world we are taking homes away from animals that are already here.
- To prevent prostate infections, testicular tumors, and rectal tumors. Part of the treatment for each of these conditions is neutering and it is much riskier to neuter an older dog than a younger dog.

## **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN NEUTERING A DOG?**

Neutering is also referred to as castration or orchiectomy. The procedure involves the removal of both testicles. It is done under a general anesthetic which includes an injectable and a gas anesthetic. We give them pain medication prior to the surgery, after the surgery and also send them home on pain medication. The patient generally goes home the same day and will have sutures that need to be removed in 10-14 days. Most animals recover very quickly from this surgery and need to be kept quiet (no running or jumping) until the sutures are removed.