

Is laparoscopic spaying right for my dog?

The Choice Is Yours

Of course, traditional spaying is still an acceptable approach, despite these other more advanced options. We continue to offer the traditional spay procedure at a reduced price, making it accessible to almost all pet owners. Veterinarians have always done their part to help with the cost of spaying to support responsible pet ownership in the community.

When it comes to you and your dog, however, you need to factor in what's undeniably best for your pet and then balance that against other factors. The specialised equipment and expertise needed for laparoscopic procedures is largely why the costs are higher. Again, that's a decision only you can make, but you do need to make that decision with a true understanding of the differences between these two procedures.

We are happy to discuss your situation and questions that you have about laparoscopic spaying.

Let's Talk About Spaying

Spay surgery has been performed in the same way for decades. It is a commonly performed procedure and is a responsible choice if you do not wish to breed your dog. Although it is a routine operation in veterinary practice, spaying is, in fact, major abdominal surgery.

In a traditional spay, the surgeon makes a 2-3 centimetre long incision into the abdomen and then removes the entire reproductive system from the body. This approach involves tearing of the ovarian ligament in order to allow the vet to get to the ovaries from the abdominal incision.



A laparoscope procedure



When the procedure is done laparoscopically, the procedure is performed through one to three key-hole incisions.

A laparoscope (camera) magnifies the internal structures of the abdomen on a monitor, allowing for greater precision and fewer complications. Instead of removing the entire reproductive system, only the ovaries are taken out. The magnified view of the ovarian ligament allows the vet to carefully cut and seal it.

This is a gentler approach and eliminates tearing of the ligament as a source of pain. The small incisions are sutured and your dog will usually be sent home the same day. The difference in the amount of disruption to the animal's body is significant, and that means less pain is generated and a faster healing time. While it's true that your pet

will likely suffer no long-term consequences from a traditional spay, the more extensive procedure is tougher on her in the short term and we need to be careful to provide additional pain management.

In cases of larger breed, deep-chested dogs gastropexy can be performed at the time of the laparoscopic spay to prevent life-threatening gastric torsion (bloat).



Animal Hospitals Australia