

Spaying/Neutering Your Dog

Your new pet has been spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Females should be spayed before they become sexually mature, before reaching 4 to 6 months of age. Spaying a female (removing the ovaries and uterus) helps prevent breast cancer, which can be fatal 50% of the time. It also helps prevent pyometra (uterine infection), a very serious problem in older females that must be treated with surgery and intensive medical care. Spaying also prevents unwanted animals from being born.

Neutering a male (removing the testicles) may reduce marking, decrease the urge to escape outside to looking for a mate and reduce fighting between males.

OKCAW has a free spay/neuter program for any pet whose owner resides in Oklahoma City. If you have a friend or family member with a pet that needs sterilization or another pet in your home that is unsterilized, please call 405-297-3100 to take advantage of the program.

Spay/Neuter Release Instructions

All animals are spayed or neutered prior to being adopted. The instructions below may or may not apply, depending on when your animal was sterilized. Your adoption contract will indicate a date of sterilization.

1. Your pet has had general anesthesia today or recently and may be unsteady on his or her feet this evening. Restrict access to stairs and high furniture to avoid any accidental falls or injuries.
2. Please provide your pet with fresh, clean water. You can offer them a small meal in the evening, and then begin feeding normally in the morning. Anesthesia can make pets nauseous, so do not offer a large meal. If your pet vomits, do not offer them more food until the following morning.
3. Watch your pet for any vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, or decreased energy level. Some pets may vomit the evening of surgery but this should not continue. If you notice any of these signs or other signs of illness, please make an appointment to have your pet seen by a veterinarian. You may use the exam certificate provided to you at the time of adoption for a free office call at a participating veterinary clinic within 10 days of adoption.

4. Do not allow your pet to lick or scratch the incision site. If your pet is bothering his or her incision, you may need to get an Elizabethan collar for them. For female dogs, the incision will be on the ventral abdomen (belly). For male dogs, the incision will be in between their hind legs near the belly.
5. Check the incision daily; it should be clean, dry and not have any areas that appear to be open or gaping. If you notice any discharge, heat, swelling or redness, you should have your pet seen by a veterinarian. You may use the exam certificate provided to you at the time of adoption for a free office call at a participating veterinary clinic.
6. Unless otherwise noted, the stitches are absorbable and do not need to be removed.
7. Do not bathe or groom your pet for 10 days from the spay/neuter date, or allow him or her to go swimming.
8. Your pet's exercise should be restricted for 7-10 days from the spay/neuter date to allow him or her to heal. Running, jumping and rough play should not be permitted during this time.
9. If your pet has been sent home with medication, be sure to follow all directions on the label. Give the medication for the entire time indicated by the instructions, even if your pet does not appear to be sick.