

Laparoscopic Spay Surgery at Mountain Vista Veterinary Hospital You Have Options!

It is time to have your pet spayed and now you have a choice on how to have the procedure performed. Mountain Vista Veterinary Hospital is the first and only veterinary hospital in our region to offer an alternative to traditional spay surgery. Please take a moment to read about laparoscopic spay surgery or what has become known as a “Lap Spay” or “Gentle Spay”.

What is Laparoscopic Surgery?

Laparoscopic surgery is a form of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) that utilizes surgical camera technology in order to perform many different types of surgical procedures. Laparoscopic surgery has been the standard of care for many years in human medicine where it is used for many procedures such as gall bladder surgery, joint surgery and hysterectomy. We are very fortunate to now be able to offer it to our veterinary patients.

What is the difference between a traditional spay and a laparoscopic spay?

A traditional spay involves making an incision in the abdomen of a patient in order to remove the ovaries and uterus. The incision can be several centimetres long depending on the size of the patient. In a laparoscopic spay or “Lap Spay”, a much smaller incision or “porthole” is created where a specialized surgical camera and surgical tools are used to perform the procedure.

What are the advantages of a Lap Spay over traditional spay surgery?

Studies have shown that patients undergoing a Lap Spay experience 65% less pain*, recover and heal faster, and experience less tissue trauma over traditional spay surgery.

What are possible complications of a Lap Spay?

The risks are the same as with any type of surgical procedure. General anesthesia is required as with a traditional spay. As with any surgical procedure, there are also small risks such as bleeding or infection. In very rare cases, a Lap Spay may need to be converted to a traditional spay if major bleeding or anomalies in organ structure are encountered for the safety of your pet.

How long does it take to perform a Lap Spay?

The procedure takes about the same time as to perform a traditional spay. As with traditional spaying, older mature patients, take a bit longer due to larger blood vessels and more intra- abdominal fat.

How long will it take for my pet to recover after a Lap Spay?

Patients undergoing a Lap Spay tend to recover much quicker than patients undergoing traditional spay surgery and this is one of the advantages. The incision is much smaller and since tissues are cauterized and not torn during the procedure, there is much less bruising and very little bleeding. That being said, we still recommend that you restrict exercise for about 1 week after surgery to allow for healing of the porthole incision.

Are there any other differences from a traditional spay I should be aware of?

Your pet will have a slightly bigger shaved area on their abdomen compared to a traditional spay. (see picture below)

Are there any disadvantages to performing a Lap Spay?

Because of the specialized equipment and training required to perform a Lap Spay, it is more costly to perform than a traditional spay. Our goal at MVVH is to make this technology affordable for pet owners and therefore we offer the procedure at a reasonable price so that more patients can benefit from this technology.

I would like to find out more information about having a Lap Spay in my pet but am not a regular client of MVVH?

That is OK! If you are new to MVVH or coming from another veterinary hospital, we can set up an in person lap spay consultation with you and your pet with one of our veterinarians, or a telemedicine phone appointment. This may be booked online through our website or please call the office. Laparoscopic spay consults are mandatory for prior to booking surgery.

- * Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, September 15, 2005, Vol. 227, No. 6, Pages 921-927;Duration, complications, stress, and pain of open ovariohysterectomy versus a simple method of laparoscopic-assisted ovariohysterectomy in dogs.Chad M. Devitt, DVM, MS, DACVS Ray E. Cox, DVM Jim J. Hailey, DVM



Laparoscopic Surgery Suite



Laparoscopic Clip