

## Spay & Neuter

Ovariohysterectomy, also known as “spay” surgery, is the complete removal of the ovaries and uterus of a female animal. This procedure is recommended for puppies and kittens at six months of age to prevent unwanted pregnancy, uterine infection, and reproductive cancers. There is minimal risk of complications in young, healthy animals. Waiting to spay your pet until she is older may mean increased cost of surgery, increased chance of complications, and leave them susceptible to reproductive-associated disease in the meantime.

Castration, also known as “neuter” surgery, is the complete removal of the testicles in a male animal. This procedure offers the same benefits of preventing unwanted pregnancy and reproductive-associated infections and cancers. We recommended neutering at six months of age for small dogs and kittens. Large breed dogs require more time to physically mature and can benefit from the growth effects of testosterone a little longer. If your dog is expected to be around 45 pounds or larger at adult weight, we recommend waiting to neuter him until one year of age. Please consult your veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns, and they can create a personalized recommendation for your pet.