

# MILLWOOD



ANIMAL CLINIC

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## The Scoop

### Ovariohysterectomy in dogs

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying a female dog. The procedure consists of removal of the ovaries and uterus. If the ovaries are not removed, the bothersome heat periods still occur even though pregnancy is impossible. Surgery is usually performed at 5 1/2 to 9 months of age.

Though it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating techniques.

Prevention of pregnancy and heat periods is the main reason for the surgery, but the procedure is often necessary in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and/or uterine tumors, and some skin disorders.

## FAQ

**Will it make my dog fat and lazy?** No. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled by proper feeding and exercise.

**Will it change her personality, disposition, or intelligence?** No. Dog's personalities do not fully develop until 1 - 2 years of age. If there is a personality change in a dog spayed at a young age, it would have occurred without surgery.

**Are there any problems associated with spaying?** A very small percentage of dogs have trouble holding their urine as they become older. This is normally controllable with medication.

**Shouldn't my dog have a litter first?** No. there are no advantages to allowing your dog to have a litter of puppies.

## Advantages

There will be no more heat periods  
There will be no unwanted puppies.  
The uterine infections common in older dogs will not occur.  
Mammary gland cancer seldom develops in dogs spayed before their first heat.

