

# Understanding Your Pet's Spay or Neuter Surgery

## Benefits of Neutering

Eliminates annoying sexual behavior such as lifting his leg to "mark" his territory both outdoors and in the house, and mounting legs and furniture.

Eliminates roaming in search of females. If allowed to run loose he may fight with other males, be injured, killed by automobiles, or get lost. If confined, he may become hyperactive, aggressive, or vicious.

Prostate infection and cancer, dangerous and commonly seen problems of older unaltered males, are eliminated, as is testicle cancer.

Reduces the chance of your dog later biting or being aggressive towards other dogs and humans. Statistics show that most dog bites are inflicted by unaltered males.

Less roaming and sniffing behavior means less external and internal parasite infestations.

Statistically, castrated males live longer and have a better quality of life!

## Benefits of Spaying

Eliminates unwanted heats and the inconvenience of protecting her from male dogs.

Eliminates the messy discharge and odor associated with estrus.

It greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer.

A dog that is spayed prior to the first heat cycle has a 1 in 2000 chance of developing mammary tumors in her life. That risk is sixteen times greater for a dog spayed after the first heat cycle. In addition, 1 in 4 dogs spayed after the second heat cycle will develop mammary tumors during their lifetime.

Protects your dog against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra), which are fatal diseases.

Helps control the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies.

## About Your Pet's Surgery...

To ensure a successful outcome of your pet's procedure, the following measures will be taken: Before your pet's procedure, it will be examined to address any problems. We require pre-anesthetic blood testing to ensure your pet is healthy enough to undergo general anesthesia. This testing provides vital information concerning the function of your pet's organ systems. If abnormalities are found, the type of drugs used for anesthesia may

be changed or the surgery may be postponed. If your pet's blood work is within normal limits, we can use those values as a baseline to compare with future blood work results. During the procedure, your pet's vital signs are monitored constantly by our LVTs (Licensed Veterinary Technicians). The anesthesia we use is the safest available. In many cases, it is the same anesthesia that 80% of children receive in human hospitals. IV fluids are given to support your pet by maintaining blood pressure and other system needs. The administration of fluids also decreases recovery time by aiding in the elimination of anesthetic drugs from the system.

Following surgery, monitoring continues to ensure your pet makes a full and pain-free recovery; pain medications are given as needed. Studies show that using pain management before, during, and after surgery decreases recovery time. Proper pain management returns your pet to normal much faster. After your pet is discharged, we are available 24 hours a day should any post-surgical complications arise. Although these occasions are rare at our hospital, they can be life threatening; that is why making 24-hour emergency care available to our clients is part of our commitment to an exceptional level of care and service for our patients.

*At New Hartford Animal Hospital, we will never compromise the safety of your pet and pledge to practice only the highest quality medicine. That is why we require proper testing prior to all surgical procedures and careful monitoring during and after those procedures. Our pets depend on us completely for their health and survival. It is our responsibility to ensure we provide them with the care and respect they deserve and need.*

~ Dr. Frank Mondri

