

WILDSIDE VETERINARY HEALTH CENTER
Handout: Rabbit Spay



Rabbit spaying, also known as ovariectomy, is a crucial procedure that plays a significant role in maintaining the health and well-being of our beloved furry friends.

Why Rabbit Spaying is Important

Rabbit spaying is essential for several reasons, the most prominent being the prevention of uterine cancer. The prevalence of uterine cancer in unspayed female rabbits is alarmingly high. Studies have shown that up to 80% of unspayed female rabbits may develop uterine cancer by the age of five. This staggering statistic highlights the urgency of spaying as a preventive measure. Spaying eliminates the risk entirely, ensuring a healthier and happier life for your furry companion.

Spaying female rabbits can also have a positive impact on their behavior in several ways.

Reduced Aggression: Unspayed female rabbits can be more territorial and aggressive. Spaying removes the hormonal influence, which often leads to a more peaceful and less aggressive demeanor. This can make it easier to introduce them to other rabbits.

Decreased Mounting Behavior: Unspayed females may exhibit mounting behaviors, such as humping, which can be a dominance display or a sign of sexual frustration. Spaying can reduce or eliminate this behavior.

Litter Box Training: Some unspayed female rabbits may have difficulty with litter box training due to hormonal changes and territorial marking. Spaying can make litter box training more successful.

It's important to note that while spaying can improve behavior in many cases, it may not entirely eliminate existing behavioral issues, especially if they have become ingrained habits. Additionally, rabbits are individuals, and their behavior can be influenced by a variety of factors, including genetics and early socialization.

Pre-Op Care for Rabbit Spaying

One unique aspect of pre-operative care for rabbits is that fasting is generally not required since they cannot vomit!

The Procedure Itself

During the spaying procedure, the rabbit's uterus and ovaries are fully removed. We also employ an advanced suture technique that ensures a seamless and virtually invisible closure. The beauty of this technique lies in the fact that there are no visible stitches, and the sutures used are entirely absorbable. This means that there's no need for the inconvenience of removing stitches post-surgery, providing a worry-free and aesthetically pleasing outcome for your beloved rabbit.

Find us at: www.wildsidevet.com

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Post-Op Care for Spayed Rabbits

Cones and post-surgical clothes are usually not required for rabbits because they tend to be more tolerant of the surgical site than some other pets. However, it's vital to provide a clean, quiet, and stress-free recovery environment.

Pain management is crucial for post-operative comfort. Your pet will be prescribed a pain medication like meloxicam to alleviate any discomfort. Follow the prescribed dosage and schedule precisely.

After the surgery, it's essential to limit your rabbit's physical activity for about 7 days post op to prevent any injury or complications.

Appetite loss is common after surgery. If your rabbit is not eating or drinking adequately within 8 hours post-surgery, you may need to provide critical care feeding. This specialized food helps maintain their nutritional intake during the recovery period.

Monitoring: Keep a close eye on your rabbit's incision site for any signs of infection or complications. Contact us immediately if you notice any redness, swelling, discharge, or behavioral changes.

Risks

While rare, it's important to acknowledge that, like in any medical procedure for both animals and humans, anesthetic and surgical complications can occur. During rabbit spaying, anesthetic risks may include individual sensitivities to anesthetics, decreased post-anesthesia mobility, potential gastrointestinal stasis, and death. Surgical risks can involve issues like bleeding, infection, adverse reactions to sutures, and the possibility of delayed healing. These risks, though infrequent, highlight the importance of selecting a skilled veterinarian and meticulously following post-operative care guidelines to ensure the best possible outcome for your rabbit.

Our staff will be more than happy to discuss the best plan of action for spaying your rabbit and ensuring a long, healthy, and happy life together.

Let us know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
Wildside Veterinary team

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