

Ovariohysterectomy is the full name for the procedure that your dog has just undergone. Commonly known as spaying, this surgery involves the removal of both ovaries and the uterus. This makes it so that your female will not come into heat or have puppies. It also reduces her chances of developing breast cancer.

Most dogs do quite well after surgery. If yours does not, please call and let us know what is going on. Once home wait at least 1 hour before offering anything by mouth. First offer only small amounts of water, and if she seems alert and hungry, offer small amounts of food (1/3 of usual meal). Every pet reacts differently, some pets may not eat anything for 24 hours. There should be no vomiting, she should feel good, she should eat well, and her incision should not be red, swollen, or oozing. If she vomits, does not seem to feel good, does not eat well, or has problems with her incision, please call and let us know.

There are several different pain medications that may be prescribed. Read and follow the label directions carefully, and call if you have any questions regarding your dog's pain medication. Don't give any over the counter medications unless otherwise directed.

It is important to restrict her activity for the first week. The rules are: no running, no jumping, no rough playing, and only a few stairs. Leash walks only for a minimum of 7 days after surgery. Going up the back steps is OK, coming up from the basement is not. It is best not to let her run free. A kennel, garage, or inside works well. If your dog is too active, she may develop swelling at the incision site. Most of the time this is not a huge problem, but it is vital to differentiate the harmless swelling from more serious complications. If your dog develops swelling, please call and schedule a time to let us have a look. There is no charge for this kind of post-op exam.

At least once a day look at her incision. Make sure she is not chewing or licking it. The incision should not appear red or infected. It should be dry and clean. Do not put anything on the incision. I do not recommend cleaning it, either, as that can slow down healing. No bathing until the sutures are removed, and no swimming until two weeks after surgery.