

## Virtual Dog or Cat Spay

The following show the standard of care for the spay procedures at Little Mountain Veterinary Clinic. These are chosen by the owner of the practise.

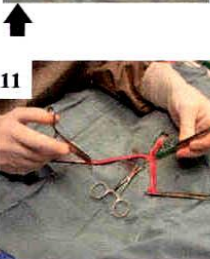
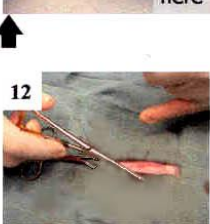
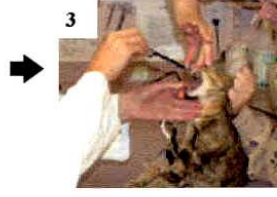
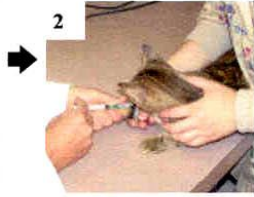
### LITTLE MOUNTAIN VETERINARY CLINIC LTD.

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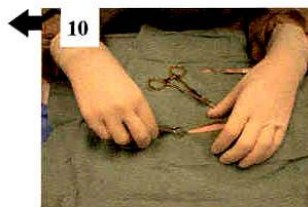
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Phone: 792-2844



**Ovariohysterectomy**

All clinics do Ovariohysterectomies (spays) differently. At Little Mountain Veterinary Clinic, we do this major surgery using the high surgical standards set by AAHA.

1. Once our patient is admitted we **examine** our friend. We sedate her with a tranquilizer which is based on our examination findings and the known history of the patient.
2. When she is sleepy, we put in an **intravenous catheter** and give her an **intravenous anesthetic**. This puts her to sleep very fast.
3. We put an **endotracheal tube** into her trachea (windpipe) to protect her lungs during surgery and to deliver the **isoflurane** (safest gas anesthetic) to her lungs.
4. The surgery site is **shaved and prepped** for surgery. She is given an **analgesic** (painkiller) in preparation for surgery.
5. Wearing her cap and mask, the surgeon does a **surgical scrub** of her hands using a sterile scrub brush and towel.
6. Surgeon dons her **sterile surgical gown and gloves**.
7. For every surgery a **sterile surgical pack** containing instruments and a drape are used. The drape keeps the surgery site sterile.
- 8 and 9. Our veterinary assistant closely **monitors** the blood pressure, colour of the mucous membranes, heart rate, pulse, eye position and depth of anesthesia every 3.5 minutes throughout surgery. The intravenous **fluid rate** is adjusted accordingly (see over).
10. The **skin is incised** (cut) down the midline of the belly.
11. The ovaries are tied off (two ties each side) and the uterus is tied off twice before removing the entire tract.
12. The skin is closed in 3 layers. The skin sutures are usually absorbable. Suture material is individually wrapped and sterile.
- 13 and 14. A **painkiller** is given here and the assistant watches the patient until she has **recovered** enough to be put into her cage safely.



### Why should I spay my kitten or puppy?

- If you are not planning to breed your pet.
- Spaying prevents unwanted pregnancy and diseases of the reproductive tract which include pyometra (a cystic disorder of the uterus which may become infected and be life threatening), vaginal or endometrial hyperplasia and if spayed early the risk of tumors of the mammary glands, vulva and vagina are greatly reduced.
- By eliminating the hormonal cycles, conditions such as epilepsy and diabetes are more easily controlled.

### How long does she have to be in the hospital?

We recommend that your pet stays at the clinic overnight so that she is kept quiet. Please be aware that no one is at the clinic overnight as this is cost prohibitive. Our patients are given warm bedding, food and water and we walk puppies for elimination purposes, while kittens are given a kitty litter box. If you feel confident that you can keep her quiet and warm we allow discharge on the day of surgery. If you want 24 hour supervision you can arrange for transport of your pet to the Emergency Clinic in Langley (604-514-1711) where she can be monitored overnight.

### When can I pick her up?

We discharge overnight patients between 9:30 am and 11:00 am and for patients going home the same day as surgery, we arrange a discharge appointment after 3:00 pm to inform her family of the risks involved and what to watch for. There is no staff on duty overnight at the clinic.

### Can I let my puppy or kitten outside?

For the first 3 days after surgery, take her outside for elimination purposes on a leash. This is to prevent any running around which could cause the ligatures to slip leading to internal hemorrhage and is life threatening. She should be supervised outside. Do not allow any bitches who were in heat to be around male dogs for at least two weeks after the surgery. They still smell good until the hormonal effects wear off. If they are bred they can develop a fatal peritonitis. Do not allow kittens to run around the house and jump onto furniture. Keep them in a cage with food and water and a kitty litter until the next day and then resume normal feeding and activity. Keep away from other pets. Do not let other pets lick the patient's incision either.

### How do I feed her?

Do not feed her past 6:00 pm the day before surgery. Take away her water first thing in the morning on the day of surgery. When you take her home give her about half the amount of food she is normally fed and see if she eats it all. If so then you can give her a little more. Occasionally patients will vomit following a spay due to the hormonal changes in their system. Do not be alarmed. If vomiting continues past one day, please contact the clinic.

### Complications.

While complications are uncommon they can occur. If her gums go white you should contact the clinic immediately as this could signal internal bleeding. Watch for redness or discharge along the incision line. Occasionally there may be some blood clots passed via the vagina from the uterine stump. If she is not eating well or you see these signs or any others that you are concerned about please let the clinic know.

### Why does it cost so much for a spay?

This an excellent question. As Canadians we are unaware of the high cost of medicine as we are used to Medicare taking care of our medical bills. In general the price you pay for veterinary services reflects the cost of the service performed. However this does not apply to the price of a spay. In fact the consumer pays far less than the actual cost of the procedure (approximately 50%). The difference is paid (or absorbed) by the practice owner. This is a contribution towards the patient, the owner, and the community. There are no subsidies in veterinary medicine from the government, non profit organizations or from pet stores. All costs are born by the practice owner.

### Optional procedures

While your pet is in the hospital for surgery we can do additional procedures during her stay. Please read the following carefully and let our staff know what options you want for your pet. If you have any questions or concerns please discuss them with us. Additional costs apply.

<b>Nail trim</b>	*
<b>Pain meds</b>	*
<b>Anal sacs</b>	*
<b>Teeth cleans</b>	Ask Receptionist*
<b>Tattoo</b>	+
<b>Vaccinations</b>	Ask Receptionist*
<b>Feleuk/FIV Test (cats)</b>	*
<b>Hip x-rays for dogs</b>	*
<b>Anesthetic packages</b>	(see below)*

\*Wellness Plan discounts apply +included in Wellness plan

### Anesthetic Packages

In the interests of increased anesthetic safety we recommend that all animals be tested for anemia and kidney disease prior to anesthesia. We also recommend intravenous fluids and EKG and blood pressure monitoring which is in addition to the veterinary assistant checking the patient's vitals every 3.5 minutes. The intravenous fluids allow immediate access to the blood in the case of an emergency. It also allows us to increase the fluid rate should the patient's blood pressure drop as may happen with some anesthetic agents and if there is excessive blood loss. It is very important that adequate blood pressure be maintained for the long term health of the kidneys and other organs.

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#### Anesthetic Safety Package 1

Includes: *Intravenous fluids*  
*EKG monitoring*  
*Blood pressure monitoring*

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#### Anesthetic Safety Package 2

Includes: *Anesthetic Package 1*  
**PLUS** *Minipanel 2*  
**PLUS** *Urinalysis*

The kidneys, urine, blood protein, and blood cells are evaluated with this test.

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#### Analgesia and Identification Package

Includes: *Tattoo & Pain Medications*