

# SUNNYSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

5100 N Star Rd, Meridian, ID 83646 Tel: (208) 286-9222  
www.sunnysideanimalhospital.com sunnysideanimalhospital@gmail.com

## OVE (OVARIECTOMY) VS. OVH (OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY)

*Please print out this sheet, fill it out, and bring it with you at the time of your pet's surgery.*

Here at **Sunnyside Animal Hospital** female dogs and cats having an apparently normal uterus are spayed by ovariectomy (OVE- only ovaries removed) rather than by ovariohysterectomy (OVH- ovaries and uterus removed).

OVE spays have been the spay technique of choice in Europe for many years and are being performed more frequently in the U.S. and well as being taught in the veterinary schools here.

Both methods will permanently terminate heat cycles and prevent future pregnancies in the female cat or dog as well as remove the female sex hormones' influence on the target tissues.

In young dogs and cats with normal uterine health, either before or after a heat cycle, removal of the ovaries causes any remaining uterine tissue to atrophy (shrink or decrease in size).

In patients that have had several litters or patients with any suspected abnormality in the uterus, an OVH may be the preferred spay procedure. The decision is up to the attending veterinarian.

Many reviews analyzing the safety and time savings of doing an OVE versus an OVH reveal a net benefit to the patient for having just the ovaries removed and leaving the uterus in place. In fact, there is no evidence anywhere that indicates there is a greater risk of eventual uterine pathology (disease) such as pyometra, bacterial endometritis, cystic endometritis, or uterine cancer in dogs and cats that have had an OVE done compared to dogs and cats having an OVH done.

An OVE can usually be done with a smaller incision and results in less surgical trauma with a lesser amount of post-surgical pain, decreased anesthetic time, and decreased bleeding risk in most patients. For these reasons, your pet may be spayed by OVE. If there is obvious uterine pathology the pet will be spayed by OVH.

**Pets that have been spayed by OVE should not be treated with progesterone-like hormones for problems like skin conditions.** However, the advent of newer, safer drugs for treating skin conditions makes it unlikely that progesterone-type drugs would be chosen in this day and age. As a precaution, you should inform your regular veterinarian that your pet had an OVE spay rather than an OVH spay to prevent the inadvertent use of those types of medications.

Please initial the type of spay you would like performed on your pet and sign and date below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please perform an OVE only, as long as my pet is a good candidate for this procedure.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please perform a complete OVH on my pet.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_