



BITCH SPEY



What is a spey?

Ovariohysterectomy is the correct medical term used for “speying”, “neutering” or “desexing” of the female dog. The surgical procedure involves the complete removal of the uterus and both ovaries. Although it is a common procedure, ovariohysterectomy of the dog is major surgery, involving a general anaesthetic and sterile operating technique. There may be slight discomfort for one or two days after surgery. Recovery is rapid in most cases.

Why spey?

Under normal circumstances, most dogs can be speyed anytime after the age of six months, and preferably before first heat. Entire female dogs (bitches) reach puberty around nine months of age. From this time onwards the cycle or come in season about every six months. During this time your bitch will attract male dogs from kilometres away, and has a good chance of becoming pregnant.

Once a bitch is speyed:

- Pregnancy is impossible.
- She will not come in heat and attract male dogs.
- She will not suffer from the uterine infections that are common in older bitches.
- She has less chance of developing breast cancer.
- It makes no difference whether your bitch has had a litter or not.

Before surgery

No food or fluids should be offered on the morning of surgery. Food may be given up to 8pm the night before (anything given after this increases the chance of vomiting under anaesthetic). She should be brought to the clinic between 8 and 9am on the day of surgery, or with prior arrangement she may be presented the night before.

After surgery

Your dog should be ready to go home on the same day as surgery.

Give her only a very small amount of food on the night after surgery. Don't worry if food is not eaten her appetite should return the next day. Also give a small amount of water or milk to drink. Keep her somewhere quiet, warm and comfortable to sleep for her first night home. It will take about 36 hours for the effects of the anaesthetic to wear off. During this time she will be quieter than usual.

Try to restrict her activity for the first few days, especially no jumping up.

A small amount of swelling around the wound is normal.

Sutures (stitches) are ready to be removed 7-10 days after the surgery.

An appointment can be made at the time of picking up your pet.

- Contact the **Northland Vet Group** immediately if you feel there is any problem after surgery.