



VETEMIS
R E F E R R A L S

Laparoscopic Spaying



Introduction:

At Warren House Veterinary Centre, we provide advanced surgical options to ensure the best care for your pet. This guide explains laparoscopic spaying, why it may be recommended, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after the procedure. If you have further questions, our team is always here to help.

What is a Laparoscopic Spaying?

Laparoscopic spaying, also called a "keyhole spay," is a minimally invasive surgical procedure used to remove a pet's ovaries (ovariectomy) or ovaries and uterus (ovariohysterectomy). A small endoscope with a camera and light source (laparoscope) is used to visualise the abdominal organs and perform the surgery through tiny incisions.

The process involves inflating the abdominal cavity with carbon dioxide to create working space. Surgical instruments are then inserted through small tubes called cannulae. The technique reduces surgical trauma, pain, and recovery time compared to traditional open spaying.

Ovariectomy

Removal of only the ovaries. This is less invasive and generally preferred for routine neutering.

Ovariohysterectomy

Removal of both the ovaries and uterus. This may be recommended for specific medical conditions.

Indications for a Laparoscopic Spaying?

Laparoscopic spaying is an excellent option for routine neutering due to its numerous benefits, including:

- Smaller incisions, result in less pain and faster recovery.
- Reduced risk of complications such as wound infections or breakdowns.
- Shorter time under anaesthesia compared to traditional spaying.

What are the alternatives?

A traditional open spay is an alternative option. However, it involves larger incisions, more tissue trauma, and manual tearing of the ovarian ligament. This can cause increased postoperative pain, a longer recovery time, and a higher risk of wound complications.

What are the risks?

Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to sedation or anaesthesia, particularly in pets with pre-existing conditions such as heart, liver, or kidney disease.

Procedure-related Risks

- Organ Puncture: Hollow or solid organs (e.g., stomach, bladder, or spleen) may be inadvertently punctured when inflating the abdomen or placing instruments. This is extremely rare, and open surgery may be required if it occurs.
- Bleeding: Minor bleeding may occur at the surgical site but is usually minimal and easily controlled.
- Wound Complications: Infections or breakdowns can occur if the surgical site is strained or interfered with by the pet.

Laparoscopic Spaying Procedure

Pre-Operative Consultation

- Pre-clinical examination of your pet.
- Procedure discussion with a senior surgeon.
- For long-distance clients, a clinical examination may be carried out by your local vet and a phone consultation will be arranged with one of our senior surgeons prior to surgery.
- Medical Review: Please inform us of all your pet's medications, including over-the-counter treatments. Certain drugs, like steroids or NSAIDs, may need to be paused, and special instructions apply for pets with conditions like diabetes or heart disease.

1

Admission & Preparation

- Withhold food for 6–12 hours before the procedure.
- Water: Restrict water for 2–4 hours prior to arrival.
- Please make sure your pet has had the opportunity to go to the toilet before arriving at the clinic.
- A team member will review the procedure with you and answer any questions before obtaining your consent.
- Your pet will undergo a clinical examination, and blood tests may be performed to assess overall health and readiness for surgery.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications.

2

Laparoscopic Spay

- Once under anaesthesia, the laparoscope is inserted through a small incision.
- The ovarian ligament is identified and severed using a vessel-sealing device, eliminating the pain associated with manual tearing in traditional spaying.
- The ovary (and uterus, if necessary) is carefully removed through the small incisions.
- Incisions are closed with absorbable sutures or surgical glue, and a small plaster may be applied to protect the site.

3

Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be closely monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A small, bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Most pets experience minimal discomfort due to the small incisions, and additional pain relief will be provided if needed.

4

Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24 hours after surgery.
- Avoid excessive activity for 3–5 days to prevent strain on the incision sites.
- Monitor the wounds daily to ensure they remain clean, dry, and undisturbed.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

- Most pets recover fully within a week and require no further treatment.
- Follow-up appointments are scheduled to ensure proper healing.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us if you notice:

- Swelling, redness, or discharge from the surgical site.
- Loss of appetite or lethargy.
- Vomiting, difficulty breathing, or unusual behaviour.

Contact Us

To Refer a routine case, please use the referral form on our website.

Call:

01543 373 033

Email:

Referrals@vetemis.co.uk

Our Services

To see our full list of services, visit:
www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk

Vetemis Referrals

Lichfield Road, Brownhills, Walsall
WS8 6LS

01543 373 033



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