



Veterinary Specialists of Alaska, P.C. Client Information Sheet:  
Laparoscopic Ovariectomy



# Laparoscopic Ovariectomy

*Because Minimally Invasive Surgery is Right For Your Pet*

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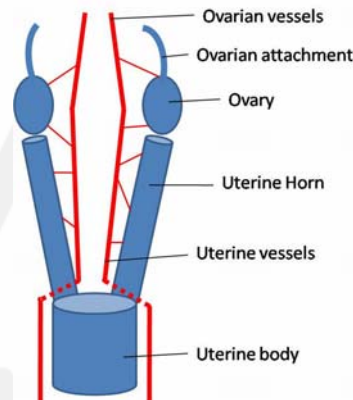
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### What is an Ovariohysterectomy?

The term ovariohysterectomy means to remove the ovaries and uterus. This procedure is commonly referred to as “spaying”.



The drawing above shows the ovaries, uterus, and vessels that are removed when an ovariohysterectomy is performed. Traditionally this is done through a 2-3 inch incision in the mid-abdomen. The ovarian ligament is torn from its attachment on the abdominal wall. This tearing causes bruising to the abdominal wall and is a source of postoperative pain.

The use of laparoscopy enables us to remove these organs with much less trauma and minimal pain. We create two small incisions into the abdomen. Each incision is 5mm in diameter, (that is roughly 1/8 to 1/2 inch). When removing the ovaries, we make controlled cuts rather than tearing the tissue, thus eliminating the pain and bruising that occurs with the traditional procedure.

### What is an Ovariectomy?

The term ovariectomy means to remove only the ovaries. The photo below shows the ovaries which are removed when an ovariectomy is performed.

By removing only the ovaries, there is minimal disruption to surrounding tissues and organs, thus minimizing patient discomfort postoperatively.



Photo by Eric Monet.



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### **Ovariectomy vs. Ovariohysterectomy**

#### **Advantages**

1. Less tissue removed equals less trauma
2. No long-term difference in outcome
3. May reduce incidence of urinary incontinence later in life

### **Why Laparoscopy?**

**Small incision size**—minimizes tissue trauma and pain.



**Tissue is removed without tearing**—minimizes pain.

**Better visualization of surgical procedure**—minimizes complications.

No increase in surgical time when compared to traditional procedure.

***Your pet  
is back  
to normal  
much more quickly!***





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### Your Pet's Comfort and Safety Is Our Priority

That is why all of our surgical patients have physical exams and, if necessary, pre-anesthetic blood work performed prior to undergoing surgery.

- An intravenous catheter is placed to allow fluid and pain medication administration during the procedure.
- We use state of the art equipment to monitor your pet's heart rate, blood pressure, heart rhythm, body temperature and oxygen blood saturation.
- We have artificial respirators to ensure adequate ventilation of the lungs and maintain proper respiratory rate.
- Our air flow body warmers help to keep your pet warm and comfortable.
- We believe that all patients experience pain. That is why all our surgical patients are treated before their surgery, during their surgery and after their surgery with pain medication.

That is why we prefer using minimally invasive surgical techniques whenever possible.

**Veterinary Specialists of Alaska** (*originally Alaska Veterinary Surgical Services*) was founded by **Mike Edwards**, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, in 1996. It is our mission to work with your veterinarian to provide your pet with the highest quality of veterinary surgical treatment options available. We are proud to offer the advantages of minimally invasive surgery such as arthroscopy, laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, and laparoscopic assisted surgery to your pet.

**Dirsko J.F. von Pfeil**, Dr. med. Vet, DVM, DACVS, DECVS, Adjunct Professor in Small Animal Surgery at Michigan State University, joined our practice in October, 2008. He was trained in small animal surgery at Michigan State University prior to his employment as assistant clinical professor of small animal surgery at Kansas State University. He has experience in arthroscopy, thoracoscopy and laparoscopy and has been the driving force in bringing laparoscopy to our practice.