Efficient Spay/Neuter Surgical Techniques

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Proven Methods

- 166 clinics trained across the US & Canada
- 1 million+ companion animals are sterilized each year
- 1,328+ private veterinarians have completed training for CE
Enabling Local Veterinarians

• You know the need in your region best
• Empower individuals to take action for their own communities
  o Hands-on training in AVL
  o Obtain CE credit
Improving Efficiency in Spay/Neuter

- Proficient Surgical Technique
- Pediatric Surgery
- Enhancement of Flow
Pediatric Surgery
Traditionally 6 Months

- Difficulty with this rule of thumb lies in that many cats may have their first heat at 4 months
- Thus waiting until 6 months to spay risks an accidental pregnancy
Advantages to Pediatric Spays

- Faster surgery time
  - Less fat
  - Less bleeding
  - More elastic tissues
  - Excellent visualization
  - Less suturing
- Faster recovery from anesthesia
- Faster healing
Less Stressful for Patient & Surgeon

Puppy

In-Heat Adult Dog
Peri-operative Concerns for Pediatric Patients

- Hypoglycemia
- Hypothermia
- Blood loss
- Stress
- Infectious disease
Avoiding Hypoglycemia

- Minimal stores of hepatic glycogen → risk for hypoglycemia
  - Avoid prolonged fasting
    - GI emptying time is very fast in puppies & kittens, so less chance for regurgitation/aspiration
    - Maximum 4 hours fasting (can “pre-Tx”)
    - Feed 1-2 tsp 15 mins after standing & small meal within 1-2 hrs
    - Karo syrup for “sugar lips” pre-op & post-op
Avoiding Hypothermia

• Use towels & supplemental heat
  o Hot water blanket
  o Rice bag/sock

• Shave hair conservatively

• Avoid excess wetting of coat during prep

• Allow littermates to recover together

• Use shredded paper/towels in recovery cages

• Use of “space blankets”
Avoid Blood Loss

- Meticulous tissue handling
- Hemostasis
Avoid Stress

• House littermates together
Infectious Disease
Accurate Weight
Puppy & Kitten Spays

- Ventral midline incision
  - Small (2 cm)
  - Midway between umbilicus & pubis
    - Slightly more cranial for puppies
- Expect abdominal fluid!
Puppy & Kitten Spays
Kitten Neuters

- Scrotal incisions
- Closed technique
- Self ligatures
- No closure
Puppy Neuters

- Scrotal or pre-scrotal incision
- Closed technique
- Self ligatures
- Close with tissue glue
Tattooing
Method of Scoring to Place Tattoo
Tattooing
Tattooing
Tattooing: Glue
Proficient Surgical Techniques – Female Cat
Incision Placement – Cats, Kittens, Puppies

Middle 1/3
Cats ONLY! Ovarian Pedicle Tie
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Cats ONLY! Ovarian Pedicle Tie

- Alternate method
Cats ONLY! Ovarian Pedicle Tie
Pedicle Tie: Video
Proficient Surgical Techniques – Female Dog
Incision Placement – Young FD (6-18 Mos)
Incision Placement – Mature Adult FD
Spay Hook
Canine Ovarian Cutaway
Strangle Knot: Ovarian Pedicles & Uterine Body
Closure
Proficient Surgical Techniques: Adult Male Dog
Scrotal Approach in the Adult Dog
Scrotal Approach in the Adult Dog
Scrotal Approach in the Adult Dog
Scrotal Approach in the Adult Dog
Enhancement of Surgical Flow
Flow of Patients

• It is typical to follow a surgical order:
  o Pediatric patients
  o Dogs
  o Cats
  o Community cats
Staff Predicting the Doctor
Streamlining: Patient Intake
Streamlining: Pack Preparation

Surgical Pack Assembly - General Clinic

The contents of these packs may change per your surgeon’s request/preferences.

Female Dog Pack (FD)
- 2 x sratel (preferably 1 straight and 1 curved)
- 1 x spy hook
- 1 x cri
- 1 x curved mosquito hemostat
- 1 x needle holder
- 1 x thumb forcep
- 1 x pair of MeVendam scissors
- 2 x towel clamps
- 5 x surgical towels

Female Cat Pack (FC)
- 1 x Cmalti
- 1 x spy hook
- 1 x cri
- 1 x straight mosquito hemostat
- 1 x curved mosquito hemostat
- 1 x thumb forcep
- 1 x pair of MeVendam scissors
- 1 x needle holder
- 2 x towel clamps
- 5 x surgical towels

Male Dog Pack (MD)
- 1 x large cri or sratel
- 1 x needle holder
- 1 x thumb forcep
- 2 x towel clamps
- 4 x surgical towels

All of the packs described above receive 5 pieces of gauze and a sterilization monitor strip.

Male Cat Pack (MC)
Assembled using a wrap and placing contents between two “bottom” towels:
- 8 x mosquito hemostats
- 8 x pieces of gauze
- 8 x blades (unopened)
Streamlining: Paperwork
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