



KEYHOLE BITCH SPAY

We are pleased to offer keyhole bitch spays for bitches from **5 months of age**, weighing **over 6kg**. We recommend spaying bitches before their first season. Alternatively, they can be spayed three months after their most recent season.

A keyhole spay is also called a laparoscopic spay or “lap” spay.

The Advantages of Keyhole Surgery

- Less pain after the operation
- Smaller incisions
- Faster recovery time
- Faster healing times
- Fewer post operative complications
- Minimally invasive
- Much clearer view for the surgeon
- Home on the same day

What to Expect from a Keyhole Bitch Spay

The operation is performed through a smaller incision (0.5-1.0cm) as compared to the larger incision (6-10cm) required for a traditional bitch spay. Two of these small incisions are made. One is for a tiny camera (called a laparoscope), which displays a magnified image on a monitor, giving the surgeon a clear view of the abdomen. The other hole is for a long slender instrument that allows the surgeon to remove the bitch's ovaries. Due to the positioning of these instruments, it is necessary to clip a large area of fur, to ensure the area is sterile.

The stitches are under the skin so there is nothing for your dog to chew. We understand how difficult it is to keep bouncy young dogs rested. After a keyhole spay we recommend keeping your dog on-lead exercise for just two days, considerably less than the 10-14 days needed for traditional spays.

Most dogs are very comfortable after their keyhole spay. However, we know that they are all different and so bitches are administered with appropriate pain-relieving medication before, during and after their operation.

What is the difference between Ovariectomy and Ovariohysterectomy?

During a keyhole bitch spay the two ovaries are removed (called an **ovariectomy**). During the more traditional bitch spay both the ovaries and the womb are removed (called an **ovariohysterectomy**).

The effect of both types of surgery is the same. Spayed bitches will not have seasons, cannot become pregnant and will not develop false pregnancies. Spayed bitches cannot develop life-threatening womb infections (called pyometra) or tumours of the ovaries. In addition, if your bitch is spayed before her third season, her risk of developing mammary tumours is reduced.

Included in the price is a check-up 4-5 days after the operation to examine the wound and to discuss diet, as some bitches can be prone to weight gain after their spay.

Please ask if you require further information or an estimate. You are welcome to discuss your bitch's suitability for a keyhole spay with our highly skilled surgeon, Mrs Alison Carr.