



SPAY/NEUTER SAVES LIVES

PYOMETRA IN CATS & DOGS

Spaying is **complete prevention** for this **fatal condition**.

The importance of spaying your cat or dog cannot be over-emphasized.

Any perceived risks of surgery are very much out-weighed by the risk of pyometra.

What is it?

A pyometra is a pus-filled infected uterus. Toxins and bacteria leak across the uterine walls and into the bloodstream, causing life-threatening toxic effects. The uterus dies, releasing large amounts of pus and dead tissue into the abdomen. Without treatment, death is inevitable. Preventing this disease is one of the main reasons for routinely spaying female cats and dogs.

How does it come about?

With each heat cycle, the uterine lining engorges in preparation for pregnancy. Eventually, some tissue engorgement becomes excessive or persistent (a condition called cystic endometrial hyperplasia). This lush glandular tissue is ripe for infection (recall that while the inside of the uterus is sterile, the vagina below is loaded with bacteria). Bacteria ascend from the vagina and the uterus becomes infected and ultimately filled with pus. Hormonal effects on the uterine tissue accumulate with each heat cycle, which means pyometra is much more common in older females because they have experienced many hormonal cycles.

What are the signs & symptoms?

Typically, the patient is an older cat or dog and has finished a heat cycle in the previous 1 to 2 months.

Lab work, radiographs, and an ultrasound may be required to diagnose.

- Poor appetite
- Vomiting
- Drinking excessive amounts of water
- Vaginal discharge (although patients with no discharge tends to be sicker due to retention of toxins)
- Distended belly because of the puss-filled uterus (which leads guardians to wrongly conclude the pet is pregnant)

Expensive lab work, radiographs, ultrasound, and/or Emergency Clinic services may be required to diagnose and/or treat.

Important Note About Pyometra in Cats

Female cats rarely appear sick until very late stages of the disease. The cat herself is generally eating and grooming as if nothing is much is going on.



Unfortunately, this lack of apparent illness leads to a delay in diagnosis and this delay can be lethal.

Pyometra surgery can be



5-10 times the cost

of a routine spay.

How is it treated?

The usual treatment for pyometra is surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries. It is crucial that the infected uterine contents do not spill and that no excess bleeding occurs. The surgery is challenging, especially if the patient is toxic. A few days of hospitalization are typically needed after the surgery is performed.

While the end result of pyometra surgery is a spayed cat or dog, there is nothing routine about a pyometra spay. The surgery is challenging and the patient is in a life-threatening situation.

Pyometra is highly likely to occur if a female cat or dog is left unspayed.
Don't delay - make your spay appointment today!

