

Do other vet practices offer keyhole surgery alternatives?

Currently, not many. As one of the first veterinary practices in the UK to offer laparoscopic spays, our practice has pioneered these procedures in the UK, and we have been using them for many years now. Although they're common in the human field, for a variety of reasons vets have been slower to take up these techniques. It will hopefully become more widely available in the future.

Does it cost more?

Yes, but not as much as you might think! The equipment and training needed for laparoscopy is expensive, as the equipment we use is the same equipment as human surgeons use. We do therefore charge a small additional fee for this type of surgery, but this is easily outweighed by the benefits of reduced post operative pain and faster recoveries.

To learn more about the procedure and get an estimated quote, please ask at reception or give us a call on **01732 452333**.



Elands Veterinary Clinic

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"Because we care"

Laparoscopic bitch and cat spays

Why minimally invasive "keyhole" spays could be right for your pet



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Your pet's comfort and safety is our priority

We understand that you want the best for your pet, which is why we use minimally invasive techniques such as ultrasound and “keyhole” surgery wherever possible. Non-invasive procedures can be less painful and can offer shorter recovery times. Neutering is considered a “routine” surgery, and in surgical terms it is actually classed as a major abdominal operation, using keyhole surgery techniques that were previously only used in the human field. This has been a major advance in reducing pain and speeding up the post-recovery time. Indeed, we are still one of a few practices able to offer this service in the UK.



Less trauma, less pain, quicker recovery

What is a laparoscopic spay?

Laparoscopy is commonly referred to as “keyhole” surgery. Instead of making a large cut into the abdomen, operations are carried out through tiny 5mm incisions into the abdomen with the aid of an endoscope (a camera that allows us to look inside the body). Instruments can also be inserted through these tiny holes, and operations are performed using a large screen that shows the surgeon the inside of the abdomen and allows them to use the instruments remotely. When possible, most human surgeries are carried out this way.

How is it different from a normal spay?

Traditionally, bitch spays require a three to four inch incision (cats are smaller), which itself is a source of post-operative pain. The nature of the procedure (the uterus is identified and pulled up through the surgical wound) also causes some trauma and bruising, leading to more post-operative discomfort.

Laparoscopy enables us to remove the ovarian attachments with much a much lower chance of tearing (as the procedure doesn't involve pulling) and substantially less trauma and bruising. The operation requires only very tiny incisions, so wounds are usually much less painful. Better visualisation also reduces the chances of complications, as the whole abdomen can be examined via the camera.

What are the benefits of laparoscopic spays?

The procedure also causes less cosmetic scarring, and as wounds are smaller, there is a smaller chance of post-operative infection.

In summary:

- Small incision size = less discomfort and lower complication risk.
- Less tissue removal without tearing or traction, meaning there is less pain and trauma.
- A better visualisation of the surgical procedure minimises complications.
- Your pet will be back to normal much faster, so there is less exercise and movement restriction.

Will my pet need stitches?

Usually not! The wounds are very small and are usually closed with a special skin adhesive, so stitches aren't needed. We still like to check our patients a few days after the operation, to make sure that everything is okay and your pet is comfortable and healing well.

Do you remove the ovaries and uterus?

Over time, research in Europe and the USA has shown that removing the uterus (womb) is usually unnecessary, and doing so increases post-operative discomfort. We therefore just remove the ovaries, unless we have any concerns about the condition of the uterus. This has the same effect as a traditional spay in stopping seasons, preventing pregnancy and in some cases reducing mammary cancer.