

Why Spay Your Rabbit



If you have any further queries regarding the welfare of your pet, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff

We are happy to assist!

Aireworth Vets 
SMALL ANIMAL  

Aireworth Road, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 4DJ
Tel: 01535 602988
Fax: 01535 691498
Email: Admin@aireworthvets.co.uk

Aireworth Veterinary Centre
Aireworth Road
Keighley
BD21 4DJ
Tel: 01535 602988
Fax: 01535 691498
Email: admin@aireworthvets.co.uk

WHAT IS A RABBIT SPAY?

A spay is an ovarian-hysterectomy i.e. both the uterus and the ovaries are removed.

WHY SPAY?

- To prevent an unwanted pregnancy. Sexual maturity can be as early as 16 weeks.
- To prevent false pregnancies. Rabbits are reflex ovulators. Even rough handling (Struggling when being caught) can cause eggs to be released. This will initiate a release of hormones making her think she is pregnant and trigger some physical changes associated with pregnancy, the most noticeably being pulling out her fur and making a nest.
- To help with certain undesirable behaviour problems.
- To prevent or remove disease. Cancer commonly occurs in unneutered female rabbits from 2 years of age.

The above reasons are the advantages of neutering but what about the risks?

WHAT PROBLEMS COULD THERE BE?

Your rabbit will be given a general anaesthetic to carry out the operation. A general anaesthetic carries a higher risk in rabbits compared to cats and dogs as they are prey animals and respond to stress differently.

If your rabbit is an outdoor rabbit arrangements will need to be made to house her indoors at least for the 1st night post operatively. Although spaying is a routine procedure, it is not risk free, bleeding during and after the operation is a factor and infection is always a risk.



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RABBIT?

In the morning your rabbit will be checked over by the vet to ensure that they are fit for their operation. All rabbits undergoing surgery at Aireworth Vets are allocated their own kennel and are under constant supervision of the kennels nurse.

Whilst in the kennels they receive medication to aid in maintaining gut mobility and relieving pain. They also receive some fluid therapy to help maintain them during the surgery. When it is their turn for surgery they are taken to the preparation room. Here they are given an injection which sends them to sleep. Once asleep they are clipped and prepared for surgery.

They are then transferred to the operating theatre for their surgery. During the surgery they are given oxygen through a mask to aid their breathing. After their operation we transfer your pet back to the prep room to recover.

Once they have regained consciousness we take them back to the kennels. It is important that once your rabbit has fully recovered they begin eating again. Normally we hospitalise any rabbit until she starts eating feely. This may require an overnight stay.

WHEN SHOULD MY RABBIT BE SPAYED?

We usually advise that rabbits should be spayed from 4 months of age to ensure they are fully grown. Rabbits can be neutered at a later age.