

Ausm Labradoodles Ovary-Sparing Spay (Hysterectomy) Information and Contract

Your puppy has had an Ovary-Sparing hysterectomy. This means that her uterus and cervix have been removed, but her ovaries were left intact; however, she is considered sterilized and therefore unable to become pregnant. She has a tattoo of OS on her belly, meaning Ovary-Sparing. By leaving your puppy's ovaries, your puppy will be able to produce the hormone estrogen.

Estrogen is needed for proper bone and joint growth. Due to many recent research studies, your puppy can benefit from estrogen, not only during growth, but for her entire life. Estrogen production can decrease the incidence of hip dysplasia, other joint disorders, thyroid and adrenal disorders, as well as certain cancers, such as Lymphomas.

What effects will you encounter because your dog still has her ovaries?

Probably none! A female dog comes into heat once every 6-8 months, usually beginning between nine and twelve months of age. Each heat cycle lasts for approximately 3 weeks. A fully intact female (one who still has her uterus) will "spot" or bleed lightly for the first week or two, then have a clear discharge for the last week or two. This will not occur in your dog because she no longer has a uterus.

Changes that will occur in both a fully intact female and your dog are: a swollen vulva (the part of her body from which she urinates), production of pheromones which can attract intact (non-neutered) males (if there are any in your area) to her/your yard, etc., a willingness to "stand still to be bred" (this behavior only occurs for 3-4 days of her three-week heat cycle, usually around days 11-13), "flagging" (a term used to describe a change in the way she carries her tail: high up, and to the side; she will exhibit this behavior when you scratch her lower back, usually from day 8-12 of her heat cycle), and possibly some minor behavioral changes, such as being more cuddly or more independent, seeming depressed or fatigued, or having a sudden great desire to go outside a lot (especially during days 11-13, referred to as "standing heat") as she is subconsciously "looking for a mate."

You may notice **no changes at all**, either physiologically or behaviorally! My girls usually become more affectionate (which is not a bad thing)!

Concerns you might have about: Her being bred by an intact male dog.

1) Remember, she cannot get pregnant.

2) With the abundance of spay and neutering in the U.S. today, the chances of her coming into contact with an intact male dog are slim to none!

You may elect to remove your dog's ovaries at a later date; however, **I require that you leave her ovaries until she is at least 12 months old. I highly recommend to wait until she has completely finished growing- at least 2 years old before spaying. Removing your dog's ovaries prior to 12 months will cause your Health Guarantee from Ausm Labradoodles to be null and void.**

You may leave her ovaries for her entire life. However, if

- “societal acceptance” by having a spayed dog is important to you
- You do not have control of dog at all times while she is in heat (on leash)
- You do not have great vocal control of your dog,
- Have a yard with a fence that an intact male cannot possibly enter, or
- You do not wish to deal with any intact males that suddenly come to visit

You may elect to remove her ovaries via spaying. If your female is in standing heat, she will allow an intact male dog to mate with her if you are not in control of your dog. With a few careful precautions you should never have to encounter this scenario.

Most Veterinarians were trained to spay or neuter dogs prior to reaching sexual maturity (6 months of age). This practice became extremely necessary in the U.S., because of the overpopulation of pets and the unfortunate practice of euthanasia at animal shelters due to unwanted pets and/or overpopulation. On the other hand, it is extremely rare for dogs to be spayed or neutered in European countries, due to proper education, training, and control of their pets. Because of these steps overpopulation is not a problem there.

Your veterinarian may or may not be aware of the latest research on the harmful effects of spay/neuter before your dog reaches sexual maturity, nor on the practice of sterilization via ovary-sparing hysterectomy. If your veterinarian falls into this category, and/or is adamant that you remove her ovaries prior to one-year-old as **prohibited** in this contract, please try to educate your vet by providing him with the following link: <http://leerburg.com/neuter.htm>. Dr. Karen Becker, DVM has a wonderful YouTube video on this webpage which explains the detriments of early spay/neuter, and includes research studies in support of sparing your dog's ovaries, etc., and alternative procedures such as sterilization (i.e. the ovary-sparing hysterectomy that your puppy has received). Below the YouTube video on the webpage are links to **actual scientific studies on the effects of spay/neuter**. These articles should be of great interest to your

veterinarian. Please bring a copy of this document with you to your first veterinary visit, and email it to your Vet. for easy access to the web link!

I have read Ausm Labradoodles Ovary-Sparing Spay Information and Contract. I agree not to have my dog's ovaries removed prior to 12 months of age, or my Health Guarantee will become null and void at the time of spaying. I understand that Ausm Labradoodles highly suggests that I leave my dog's ovaries until she reaches at least the age of two years old.

Buyer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Seller Signature _____ Date: _____
(Seller's Representative)