

EAR TRIM SURGERY

Ear trimming is a purely cosmetic procedure .There is no medical reason to perform this operation. **The actual surgery is the simple part of the whole procedure-it is the aftercare that is time consuming but must be done to insure that the ears heal well and stand properly.** There will be multiple trips to the clinic for stitch removal and ear bracing.

There is a certain amount of pain involved for the puppy when this surgery is performed. The amount of discomfort varies from puppy to puppy but is generally much more if the puppy is over 12-14 weeks of age. This is why we recommend doing the surgery between 8 and 12 weeks except for toy breeds who may not weigh enough at this age for the anesthesia to be safe.

As with any surgery there is always some risk involved with anesthesia. While we do everything in our power to insure that your puppy does well throughout the surgery sometimes circumstances can arise that are beyond our control and a puppy can be lost.

After surgery puppies must be kept in a VERY clean environment and not allowed to rub or scratch at the ears and you will need to keep any scabs cleaned off the ears and NEOSPORIN PLUS must be put on the ears 1-2 times a day. If the puppy should begin to rub the ears you may need to come into the clinic and pick up an Elizabethan collar for him/her to wear so that he/she can not scratch out the stitches.

Stitches will need to be removed in 8-10 days and then when the ears have completely healed they will need to be braced. Braces are placed on the ears and left for 7 days at a time--they are then removed to allow the ears to breathe. If the ears are standing properly then they are left off, but if the ears start to fall or stand incorrectly then they will need to be replaced. While most puppies will only need their ears braced a couple of times, this procedure can go on for months to get the ears standing properly. I have had several puppies who had to have bracing done almost weekly until they were 8-9 months of age before the ears were strong enough to stand properly. In a few cases however, even with repeated bracing, some puppy's ears will not stand properly, if at all.

As you can see, this operation is very involved and requires a very committed owner to insure favorable results. If you are squeamish about doing any of the necessary homecare or don't have the time to invest to get the ears healed and standing properly then I would strongly recommend that you not have your puppy's ears trimmed but allow them to remain natural.

Sincerely,
Paula Steele,DVM

I have read the above and understand what is involved in this operation and have decided to go ahead with the procedure

Owner's signature

Date