

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--*May 9, 2007*

KARL STORZ Veterinary Endoscopy-America teams up with Dog Adoption and Welfare Group (D.A.W.G.) to offer abandoned dogs in Santa Barbara County a less painful alternative to traditional spays.

Santa Barbara, CA

On Sunday May 13th, 2007 a Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America sponsored laparoscopic spay training workshop will be held at the Dog Adoption and Welfare Group (D.A.W.G.) in Santa Barbara, CA. Laparoscopic spays are the hottest surgical technique in veterinary practice, offering patients less pain, reduced trauma and faster recovery time. D.A.W.G. will be the first clinic in Santa Barbara County to offer laparoscopic spays to their patients.

In a traditional spay, a one-inch or larger incision is typically made in the abdomen through which the ovarian ligament is blindly torn from the abdominal wall with the surgeon's finger. This tearing, as well as the incision itself is painful for the patient. The incision takes up to two weeks to heal, with ample opportunity for infection or for the animal to tear open the stitches.

By performing the procedure laparoscopically (a minimally invasive technique for viewing the internal structures of the abdomen), veterinarians offer their patients less pain and fewer complications. In a laparoscopic spay, the procedure is performed through three small holes in the abdomen, 1/8" to 1/2" in diameter, depending on the size of the animal. A laparoscope (camera) passed through one of the holes magnifies the internal structures of the abdomen on a TV monitor, allowing for greater precision and fewer complications. The other two holes are for surgical instruments with which the ovarian ligament and vessels are carefully cut and cauterized, rather than torn. In many cases the incisions are so small, they don't even require suturing, but can simply be closed with surgical adhesive. The patient can usually be sent home the same day.

Despite a study published in the 2005 Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association which concluded laparoscopic spays caused less pain and surgical stress than open surgical spays virtually every spay done in Santa Barbara County is done via traditional open surgery. The persistence of those at D.A.W.G. to provide the best care available to their patients is about to change things. After learning about the benefits of spaying dogs laparoscopically D.A.W.G. approached Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America on how to incorporate laparoscopic spays into their clinic. KARL STORZ has arranged to loan D.A.W.G. the necessary equipment and has coordinated a laparoscopic spay training workshop at their facility on Sunday May 13th, 2007 with Dr. Ty Tankersley of Hampden Family Pet Hospital in Englewood, Colorado. In addition to Dr. Scott Palmer of D.A.W.G. several other Southern California veterinarians will be attending the course during which 5 abandoned dogs will be spayed laparoscopically. After Sunday May 13th, 2007 D.A.W.G. will only perform spays laparoscopically because, "it's better for the dogs."

By performing spays laparoscopically D.A.W.G. can offer their patients less pain and reduced recovery time, while safely performing the procedure as an outpatient surgery; a less stressful alternative for patient and owner. For the veterinarian the laparoscopic spay is simple to perform, involves few complications and allows for better visualization of abdominal organs. The laparoscopic spay is truly a humane and practical alternative to the traditional surgical spay.

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