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Gandy Animal Hospital and Cat Center becomes first practice in Tampa to offer laparoscopic spays, a revolutionary new veterinary surgery which reduces post-operative pain by up to 65% from that of a traditional spay.

Tampa, FL, October 24, 2007 – Before taking your beloved four legged friend in for her spay check with Gandy Animal Hospital and Cat Center who now offers a less painful alternative to traditional spays. Whether you are concerned about the pain she'll experience with a traditional spay or concerned about keeping her from tearing open her stitches, Gandy Animal Hospital and Cat Center has the solution.

By incorporating a state of the art endoscopy system from Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America, Gandy Animal Hospital and Cat Center has transformed how they practice medicine. Minimally Invasive Surgery has become the standard in human medicine. Over the last decade veterinary medicine has begun adopting minimally invasive techniques to reap the same benefits endoscopy provides humans: less pain, reduced trauma and faster recovery time. Procedures that have traditionally required large incisions are now performed through natural openings in the body or through one or more tiny holes. As the benefits have been proven, its applications have expanded. Most notably, minimally invasive techniques have been developed to perform the most common abdominal surgery in dogs and cats: spays.

A study published in the 2005 Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association concluded laparoscopic spays caused less surgical stress and up to 65% less post-operative pain than a traditional open surgical spay*. Despite these findings virtually every spay done across the nation is still done via traditional open surgery, largely due to the special training and equipment that laparoscopic spays require.

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In a traditional spay a 2" to 3" incision is made in the abdomen through which the ovarian ligament is torn from the abdominal wall. This tearing causes bruising to the abdominal wall and postoperative pain. 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) Gandy Animal Hospital and Cat Center offers their patients less pain and fewer complications. In laparoscopic spays the procedure is performed through three small incisions in the abdomen, 1/8" to 1/2" in length depending on the size of the animal. A laparoscope (camera) magnifies the internal structures of the abdomen on a monitor, allowing for greater precision and fewer complications. The ovarian ligament can then be carefully cut and cauterized, thereby eliminating any pain from bruising associated with traditional spays. The small incisions are sutured and the patient can usually be sent home the same day.

By performing spays laparoscopically Gandy Animal Hospital and Cat Center offers 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. 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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*Devitt, Chad, DVM, MS, DACVS. "Duration, Complication, Stress and Pain of Open Ovariohysterectomy Versus a Simple Method of Laparoscopic-Assisted Ovariohysterectomy in Dogs." Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association Volume 227, Number 6 (September 15, 2005).

