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NEWS

Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital first in Monterey County to offer a less painful, faster healing alternative to traditional surgical spays.

SALINAS, CALIF., May 7, 2008 — Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America, the world leader in veterinary endoscopy equipment, is pleased to announce that Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital in Salinas, CA has become the first veterinary practice in Monterey County to offer laparoscopic spays. The laparoscopic spay operation is a new minimally invasive surgical technique that offers patients up to 65% less pain than a traditional open surgical spay.

By incorporating a state of the art veterinary endoscopy system from Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America, Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital has revolutionized how they practice medicine. By performing spays laparoscopically (a minimally invasive technique for viewing the internal structures of the abdomen), patients at Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital “experience less pain, shorter anesthesia times and quicker recovery,” said Dr. Jeff Hogans, co-owner of Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital. The procedure is performed through two 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 reproductive organs can then be carefully cut and cauterized, eliminating any pain from bruising; in a traditional spay the organs are blindly torn from the abdominal wall causing bruising and more post-operative pain.

Despite a study published in the 2005 Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association which concluded laparoscopic spays caused 65% less pain and less surgical stress than open surgical spays most spays done in the United States are still done via traditional open surgery. The reason: veterinarians have not been trained in the proper application of minimally invasive surgery or don’t own the necessary equipment. As Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital was already offering a variety of endoscopic procedures, adding laparoscopic spays was a natural transition. “I have always been interested in cutting edge techniques. I like to be on the vanguard of medicine. Endoscopy allows for incredible visualization of organs, the ability to perform procedures in a minimally invasive way improves patient comfort substantially...the ability to work through small holes creates less pain and improves recovery,” noted Dr. Hogans.

In the short month Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital has been offering the revolutionary new procedure it has been well received by clients. “When the word got out that our hospital was going to start offering laparoscopic spays we got several calls from people, even from adjacent counties, that told us they had been waiting for a hospital to offer the procedure for some time...most (people) have had experience with endoscopic or laparoscopic procedures themselves and know the benefits,” continued Dr. Hogans.

By performing spays laparoscopically Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital offers their patients less pain and reduced recovery times, 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.

About Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America

Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America Inc. draws upon the technical innovation and excellence of Karl Storz GmbH & Co., the world leader in medical endoscopy, to produce high quality endoscopy and video imaging systems for use in veterinary practice. For over 15 years Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America Inc. has been dedicated to expanding the use of minimally invasive surgical techniques in veterinary medicine. By adopting the same minimally invasive techniques used in human surgery, animals of all sizes reap the same benefits endoscopic surgery offers humans: less pain, minimally recover time and fewer complications. Just as endoscopy has become the standard practice in human surgery it promises to become the standard in veterinary medicine. For more information please visit www.karlstorzvet.com.

About Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital

Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital is a full service hospital dedicated to providing the best in veterinary medical care to Monterey County by offering cutting edge veterinary medicine in a compassionate, caring environment for their patients and to delivery exceptional customer service to pet owners. A new state-of-the-art facility offers a wide range of convenient services including sophisticated diagnostic equipment, on-site laboratory, a fully equipped surgical suite, intensive care and isolation areas. A caring and well-trained staff strives to provide the highest quality pet health and wellness services to assist pets in living longer, happier and healthier lives. For more information please visit www.hardenvet.com.