

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—*August 10, 2007*

**Attendees of the Indiana State Fair will be given the rare opportunity to see a live laparoscopic spay procedure performed, a revolutionary new veterinary surgery which reduces pain by up to 65% from that of a traditional spay.**

Indianapolis, IN

On Wednesday August 15th, 2007 attendees of the Indiana State Fair will be given two opportunities to watch a live laparoscopic spay surgery performed. This program, sponsored by the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, Purdue University and Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America, will educate the attendees about the benefits of laparoscopic spays over the traditional open surgical procedure including: less pain, reduced trauma and faster recovery time. The Indiana State Fair will become the first venue in the nation to offer the general public the opportunity to watch a live laparoscopic spay surgery performed. Dr. Lynetta Freeman, Associate Professor of Small Animal Surgery & Biomedical Engineering at Purdue University and Dr. Amy Fauber, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Surgery at Purdue University will perform the surgeries at the Pioneer Hi-Bred Our Land Pavilion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds at 10:30am and 1:00pm on Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> in association with *Purdue Day*.

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 a result of veterinarians not yet having been trained and/or not owning the equipment. As veterinarians and pet owners are becoming increasingly educated about the advantages of laparoscopic spays that trend is beginning to turn.

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) patients experience less pain and fewer complications. A laparoscopic spay 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 blindly torn as in a traditional spay. In many cases the incisions are so small, they don't require suturing, but can simply be closed with surgical adhesive. Laparoscopic spays can safely be performed as an outpatient surgery, a less stressful alternative for patient and owner.

As events like the surgeries being performed at the Indiana State Fair educate the general public and veterinarians on the advantages of laparoscopic spays, that education will ultimately result in the movement away from painful open surgical spays to less invasive, laparoscopic spays. Just as endoscopy has become the standard practice in human surgery it promises to become the standard in veterinary medicine. Laparoscopic spays are truly a humane and practical alternative to traditional open surgical techniques.

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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).