

Puerto Rico Spay Neuter Workshop Series

WORKSHOP SYLLABUS

Puppy Breath & Kitten Tails: The Ins and Outs of Pediatric Spay/Neuter

Brian A. DiGangi, DVM, MS, DABVP

Senior Director of Shelter Medicine, ASPCA

Attendees will learn to describe the role of pediatric spay-neuter in animal welfare; understand the scientific evidence regarding pediatric sterilization; and learn how to ensure basic measures to maintain safety of pediatric sterilization procedures. This workshop will explore the role of pediatric spay-neuter in a comprehensive, non-lethal, population control strategy for a community. Through critical review of current scientific literature, the evidence both for and against surgical sterilization of dogs and cats, with emphasis on pediatric spay-neuter, will be discussed. Attendees will learn how to weigh this evidence and make an informed decision about the need for and timing of surgical sterilization for their patients. A high-level overview of some key considerations to ensure safety of elective anesthetic and surgical procedures in pediatric patients will be presented.

Bugs and Scrubs! Surgical Asepsis in Spay/Neuter Surgery

Brian A. DiGangi, DVM, MS, DABVP

Senior Director of Shelter Medicine, ASPCA

Attendees will learn the rationale for maintaining surgical asepsis in spay-neuter surgery and how to maintain surgical asepsis in resource-scarce environments. This workshop will use an evidence-based approach to understand the role of aseptic technique in spay-neuter surgery and the consequences of its absence. Through a focus on implementation in field clinic settings, techniques for maintaining surgical asepsis through management of patients, surgeons, surgical instruments, and the surgical environment will be presented. Recommendations based on scientific evidence and industry best practices will be reviewed.

High Quality, High Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN): Simple Steps to Master the Techniques

Karla Brestle, DVM, BS Emergency Medical Care

Senior Director, Strategic Medical Operations, ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance
(formerly Humane Alliance)

Attendees will learn simple steps to master HQHVSN techniques and provide an overview of the most common "spay-neuter" procedures encountered in practice. The workshop will discuss a practical approach to successful spay-neuter surgical procedures. Techniques to avoid hypoglycemia, hypothermia, and blood loss will be presented, with an emphasis on management of pediatric patients. Clinical tips and tricks for safe and efficient performance of puppy castrations, feline spays, scrotal castration of adult dogs, and placing a scoring tattoo will be reviewed.

Puerto Rico Spay Neuter Workshop Series

WORKSHOP SYLLABUS

Which Surgery Would You Choose to Perform? A Case-based Video View of the Canine Adult vs. Pediatric Spay

Karla Brestle, DVM, BS Emergency Medical Care

Senior Director, Strategic Medical Operations, ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance
(formerly Humane Alliance)

Attendees will compare HQHVSN techniques in adult and pediatric canines. Through live-narrated video recordings of adult and pediatric canine patients, this workshop will demonstrate the application of safe and efficient surgical techniques. A case-based approach will be utilized to familiarize attendees with common clinical scenarios and demonstrate their management in real-time.

Enhancing your Anesthesia and Analgesia Plans with Low-Stress Techniques

Sheilah Robertson, BVMS (Hons), PhD, DACVAA, DECVAA, DACAW, DECAWBM (WSEL), CVA, MRCVS

Attendees will learn why fear, stress and anxiety increase the risks of anesthesia and make the experience of pain worse. Drug and non-drug techniques to mitigate these negative effects will be demonstrated. With images and videos, attendees will learn to recognize pain, fear, anxiety and stress in dogs and cats. Feline and canine friendly handling techniques will be demonstrated, but participants will also learn which drugs should be used perioperatively to ensure a smooth anesthetic experience for the patient. Attendees will learn to think of anesthesia starting “cage-side” (or at home) and ending with a successful and rapid return to normal activity. Anesthetic and analgesic protocols will be reviewed, including how to incorporate local anesthetic techniques.

Perioperative Care of Pediatric Patients: Time and Cost-Saving Strategies

Sheilah Robertson, BVMS (Hons), PhD, DACVAA, DECVAA, DACAW, DECAWBM (WSEL), CVA, MRCVS

Neutering of pediatric patients continues to increase because it has a large impact on overpopulation and there is data to support that it can be performed safely with today's anesthetics and analgesics. This session will present data on morbidity and mortality and the benefits of pediatric surgery, including less post-operative pain. Perceived challenges related to the small size of these patients include monitoring but there are simple ways to do this. Hypothermia and hypoglycemia are also a concern but can be mitigated. Attendees will learn about fasting, handling, anesthesia and analgesia of pediatric patients. Total intramuscular anesthesia will be the focus of anesthetic protocols. Non-invasive and easy-to-use monitors will be demonstrated. Prevention rather than treatment of hypothermia with inexpensive equipment will be emphasized and attendees will learn why intubation and intravenous access are not required in most pediatric patients.