

# Laparoscopic Spaying in Companion Farm Animals

## FARM ANIMAL MEDICINE & SURGERY

### UTCVM surgeons use minimally invasive techniques to perform ovariohysterectomy in farm animals.

Ovariohysterectomy is the most common surgical procedure performed in the female population of companion farm animals. It prevents “heat” and possible irritable behavior during estrus, as well as development of an ovarian cyst or uterine tumor.

The **traditional surgical spay** involves an incision of various length on the ventral abdomen to access the reproductive tract. Ligatures are placed to prevent hemorrhage and both ovaries and uterus are subsequently removed. Complications related to this common procedure, although rare, include incidents associated with anesthesia, post-operative pain, poor appetite and reduced activity for variable periods of time after surgery, as well as surgical incidents such as abdominal bleeding, and wound-related problems.

In dogs, **laparoscopic spay** has been developed as an alternative, minimally invasive procedure to minimize post-operative pain. This procedure has been proven to significantly improve recovery and reduce morbidity as compared with the standard surgical approach.

Surgeons at UTCVM, surgeons applied the same minimally invasive surgical technique to spay companion pigs. Laparoscopy, along with the use of a vessel-sealing device, reduced hemorrhage risks, and post-operative pain is minimal. The animals resumed their natural behaviors within a few hours.



*Dr. P-Y Mulon, and Dr. C Lux performing a laparoscopic spay on a pig at the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center.*

**For more information regarding the scheduling and the cost of the procedure, please contact the Large Animal Client Service Team at 865-974-8387, or Dr. P-Y Mulon at [pmulon@utk.edu](mailto:pmulon@utk.edu).**