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## **Prospective evaluation of pain in dogs undergoing ovariohysterectomy and castration**

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Six female dogs were operated for ovariohysterectomy and six male dogs were castrated to assess the severity of pain, wound healing and its complications if any from post-operative care. The heart rate, body temperature, and respiratory rate were also recorded. Body temperature, heart rate and respiration in male and female dogs during the process of operation differed significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ). On average the body temperature of female dogs was significantly higher ( $102.01 \pm 0.91^\circ\text{F}$ ) than the male dogs ( $101.86 \pm 0.60^\circ\text{F}$ ). The heart rate of female dogs was significantly higher ( $109.42 \pm 23.06$  beats/minute) than the male dogs ( $95.42 \pm 15.97$  beats/minute). Respiratory rate of female dogs was significantly higher ( $40.68 \pm 5.07$  breath/minute) than the male dogs ( $35.93 \pm 6.03$  breaths/1 minute). The post-operative body temperature on average of female dogs (ovariohysterectomy) was higher than the male dogs castrated. The heart rate varied between animals of the same sex and on the average heart rate of female dogs was higher than the male dogs. The respiration also varied between animals as well as between male and females, but respiration rate was higher in female dogs than the male dogs. The female and male dogs varied markedly in relation to postoperative pain due to their respective operations. There was great variation between dogs for the degree of pain or severity of pain after ovariohysterectomy surgery and is might be associated with the physical health of these animals. The male dogs physically were of different health conditions and may be the weaker dogs felt prolonged pain as compared to those with good health.