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## PYOMETRA

### What is Pyometra?

The word “pyometra” is derived from Latin “pyo” meaning pus and “metra” meaning uterus. Pyometra is when bacteria enters the uterus and becomes trapped, causing the uterus to become infected. Once infected, the bacteria and other toxins leak through the uterine walls and into the bloodstream, causing life-threatening toxic effects. “Open” Pyometra refers to a pyometra where the cervix is opened; therefore, allowing small amounts of the infected uterine contents to leak from the uterus. “Closed” Pyometra refers to a pyometra where the cervix is closed; therefore, bacteria and infected tissue are trapped within the uterus. In either of these cases, the uterus can quickly die, then releasing large amounts of bacteria and infected tissue into the abdomen, causing septicemia (a serious, life-threatening infection of the bloodstream) and potentially death, if left untreated. Aside from extreme pain and discomfort, pyometra can lead to shock, septicemia, and death. Pyometra is one of the main medical reasons that spaying female dogs and cats is highly recommended, as pyometra can be prevented by entire removal of the uterus.

Pyometra symptoms may vary; however, generally these symptoms include decreased appetite, vomiting, abdominal distention or pain, lethargy, increased drinking, among others. Classically, pyometra affects older female dogs or cats who have had a recent heat cycle within the prior 1-2 months. Diagnosing pyometra is not always simple, especially in the form of closed pyo. Common diagnostics necessary can include blood work, radiographs and ultrasound. Occasionally exploratory surgery is necessary to confirm the diagnosis.

The accepted standard of treatment is surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries (i.e: spaying). However, it is not as simple as a typical spay procedure, as it is crucial that the infected uterine contents do not leak out into the abdominal cavity and that no excess bleeding occurs. The surgery is challenging, especially if the patient is septic. Postoperative care varies depending on the condition of the patient prior to surgery, the difficulty of the surgery and amount of infection present, and how the patient recovers post operatively. Antibiotics are a necessity at the time of surgery, and in majority of cases, need to be continued after the uterus is removed. Pain relievers are often needed pre and post-operatively. Hospitalization and intravenous fluid and medication infusion are commonly needed after the surgery is performed and can be required for several days post operatively, depending on the patient’s condition. Without surgery, the prognosis for recovery is very poor. The treatment options below all depend on the patient’s condition; however, may vary from your Veterinarian’s specific recommendations case by case.



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## Treatment Options:

### Pyometra Surgery:

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,800 - \$3,800

**\*Acceptable only if patient is stable enough to endure surgery, the surgery is uneventful and successful and patient requires no additional treatment/hospitalization stay.\***

Price includes: Initial exam, x-rays, initial blood work, anesthesia/pyometra surgery, surgical technician, surgical monitoring, IV catheter and fluids, antibiotic injection, pain injection, go home medications and e-collar.

### Pre-Surgical Stabilization w/Surgery & 2 Day Hospitalization:

**Estimated Cost:** \$4,600 - \$5,600

**\*Some patients are too critically ill to undergo surgery without hospitalization and stabilization first.\***

Price Includes: Initial exam, x-rays, initial blood work, IV catheter placement, IV fluid therapy, IV antibiotics and pain medication, electrolyte level checks, anesthesia/pyometra surgery (once patient is stable), 2 day hospitalization, recheck bloodwork, go home medications and e-collar.

### Pre-Surgical Stabilization w/Surgery, 4 Day Hospitalization:

**Estimated Cost:** \$6,200 - \$7,800

**\*+/- Blood Transfusion and Hetastarch Infusion\***

Price Includes: Initial exam, x-rays, initial blood work, IV catheter placement, IV fluid therapy, heavy IV antibiotics and pain medication, electrolyte level checks, anesthesia/pyometra surgery (once patient is stable), 4 day hospitalization, blood transfusion (needed if patient becomes anemic during or post-surgery), hetastarch Infusion (replaces blood plasma volume lost through bleeding or systemic shock), blood pressure checks, recheck bloodwork, go home medications and e-collar.

### Outpatient/Non-Surgical Treatment:

**Estimated Cost:** \$1000 - \$1400

**\*Can be attempted in cases where an OPEN pyometra is present and patient is stable, or as a last attempt for treatment. Prognosis can be poor to guarded, even with treatment, depending on patient condition.\***

Price Includes: Initial exam, oral antibiotics and pain medications, +/- x-rays, +/- blood work.

### Humane Euthanasia:

**Estimated Cost:** \$220 - \$500

**\*Considered the appropriate choice if severity of infection is too great, or if unable to provide care.\***