



NORTHPARK Animal Hospital

Pseudocyesis (false pregnancy)

General Information

False pregnancy is caused by an imbalance in hormone production by ovaries without the female's being pregnant. During a false pregnancy, the female seems restless and tends to "mother" toys, shoes or other articles. She may attempt to build a "nest" by tearing up papers, blankets, etc. Her abdomen may seem larger than normal, and the mammary glands may actually produce milk.

Important Points in Treatment

1. Occasionally, no treatment is necessary because the female will "cycle" out of the false pregnancy on her own. Many dogs, however, require medical treatment
2. Surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus (spaying) is advisable in females experiencing severe or repeated false pregnancies.
3. *Mammary gland care:* If your pet's mammary glands become enlarged and painful, application of alternating hot and cold compresses 3-4 times daily usually relieves the discomfort.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- There is a discharge of blood or fluid from the vagina.
- Your pet is depressed for an extended time