



Benefits of Spaying and Neutering

For the female pet a Spay Surgery removes the ovaries and uterus.

For a male pet a Neuter Surgery removes the testicles.

Why Spay and Neuter

Humane societies struggle to deal with the large number of unwanted animals that are surrendered to shelters each year. Unfortunately there are more animals than homes and many healthy, adoptable animals are still being destroyed. It's frustrating to know that the number of unwanted pets needing homes would be greatly reduced with one simple surgery. A spay or neuter. Spaying or neutering your pet is the only method of birth control that absolutely assures that your pet is not adding to the pet over population problem. Spaying or neutering is a one time surgery and the benefits it brings over the course of the lifetime of your pet are well worth the cost incurred. Spaying or neutering your pet adds to the overall health and happiness of your companion.

Benefits of Spaying/Neutering

- ◆ No unwanted litters. Spaying and neutering is the one most important thing you can do to prevent pet overpopulation. While kittens and puppies are adorable finding homes for them can be difficult and they contribute to the burden of overpopulation.
- ◆ It will prevent your pets from developing certain types of cancers. Like humans animals suffer from cancers of the reproductive system. Mammary and uterine cancer in females and testicular cancer in males. Having pets 'fixed' before they reach sexual maturity will greatly reduce the risks of mammary cancers and remove the risk of uterine and testicular cancer.
- ◆ No smelly urine. Mature male cats have a very strong and distinctive smell to their urine that people find extremely unpleasant. Neutering your male kitten before sexual maturity will prevent urine from obtaining this odor. Neutering adult males will reduce the odor 10-14 days after surgery as the male hormone that causes the odor leaves the body.
- ◆ No more heat cycles in females.
- ◆ Reduces the need to roam. Males and females will travel far and wide to mate. Males especially will go great distances to find a female in heat. Once the need to mate has been removed dogs and cats of both sexes are more content to stay close to home.
- ◆ Reduces the risk of certain injuries. Fighting for mating rights is common between males and females and bite and scratch injuries often result during the mating process. Removing the need to mate lessens the chances your pet will be in a fight.
- ◆ Neutering reduces aggression in dogs.
- ◆ During heat cycles male and female pets focus solely reproduction and they loose focus on interaction with their human family. Spayed and neutered pets are free from the stress

that comes with reproduction and are more content to interact with their families and just be a pet.

Benefits for the Community

- ◆ Spaying and Neutering prevents the over population of cats and helps prevent the formation of feral cat colonies.
- ◆ Spaying and neutering reduces the cost of municipal taxes spent to pay for animal control and reduces the need of donations to animal welfare organizations that are left to find ways to control pet populations. Money that could be spent on other worthwhile projects.
- ◆ Spaying and neutering prevents your pet from becoming a community nuisance. Cats no longer howl, fight and spray around neighbors' property. Dogs no longer roam, fight, or become a danger to the public. There are no public mating displays that residents find offensive.

Common Myths about Spaying and Neutering

1. I've heard that a dog or cat should have at least one litter before being spayed. I want my pet to know the joy of motherhood at least once.

Allowing your pet to have a litter has no benefit. In fact a dog or cat that has been allowed to breed has a higher risk of developing mammary cancer than one who was spayed before having her first heat cycle. Your female also doesn't comprehend the 'joys' of motherhood, a pregnant and nursing animal's act on instinct. Having her spayed before she reaches sexual maturity will allow her to lead a more comfortable life and she will never miss what she hasn't known. It will also remove the risk of complications that come with pregnancy in young animals.

2. Spaying/Neutering makes your cat fat and lazy.

A spayed or neutered pet will have less energy requirements than needed in the past to facilitate the reproduction process. Their bodies no longer need to physically prepare for reproduction and they are no longer actively seeking a mate, going through pregnancy or caring for litters. Once they are spayed or neutered dogs and cats need fewer calories. Lack of exercise and over feeding your pet causes your pet to become overweight not spaying or neutering.