



Working Together to Save Animal Lives

WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

It's Easier for You

- Eliminates annoying pacing and crying of female cats while they are in heat. For female dogs, spaying eliminates messy heat cycles. For both dogs and cats, it eliminates the attraction of persistent males.
- Usually stops male cats from "spraying" foul-smelling urine and reduces urine marking and the annoying and embarrassing urge to "mount" people's legs in male dogs.
- Reduces the tendency for animals to escape and roam in search of a mate.
- Reduces fighting among male animals.
- Neutered pets are less expensive to license.

It Reduces the Overpopulation Problem

- Every day in the United States, more than 70,000 puppies and kittens are born, compared to only 10,000 human births. Obviously, there can never be enough homes for all these animals.
- In just six years, one female dog, her mate and their offspring can produce 67,000 puppies.*
- In just seven years, one female cat, her mate and their offspring can produce 370,000 kittens. That number increases to 2 million in eight years and 11.5 million in nine years.*
- Spaying and neutering is part of the solution to the tragedy of pet overpopulation.

It Eliminates Sexual Frustration

- A spayed or neutered pet will be a more relaxed member of your family.

** Statistics provided by Spay USA.*

It's Healthier for Your Pet

For females

- Eliminates the problems and risks associated with mating, pregnancy and birth.
- Almost completely eliminates the risk of a life-threatening infection of the uterus called pyometra. Up to 75 percent of unspayed female dogs will develop pyometra. Treatment requires emergency surgery.
- Can greatly reduce the risk of mammary (breast) cancer, especially if the animal is spayed before her first heat.
- Completely eliminates the risk of uterine or ovarian cancer and provides several other health benefits (e.g. eliminates vaginal prolapse, makes regulation of diabetes easier, etc.)

For males

- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer.
- Reduces the risks of injury to animals who roam in search of a mate.
- Greatly reduces the risk of prostate infections in male dogs.
- Reduces the risk of infectious diseases such as feline AIDS (feline immunodeficiency virus, or FIV) in male cats.
- Provides several other health benefits (e.g. reduced risk of benign perianal tumors).

Myths and Facts about Spaying and Neutering

- Spaying and neutering will not make your pet fat or lazy. Too much food and too little exercise cause obesity.
- Neutering will not make your cat or dog feel like less of a male or change his basic personality. Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego.
- Simply finding a home for a puppy or a kitten you bred does not guarantee a "good" home. About one quarter of animals surrendered to shelters are purebred.

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