

Important reasons to spay or neuter your pet

More than 4 million pets are euthanized in U.S. animal shelters each year simply because they have no home. Many are puppies and kittens less than 6 months old. Help stop this needless loss of life. Spay or neuter your pet.

Spaying your female pet (Ovariohysterectomy)

Removal of the ovaries and uterus.

- Eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer.
- Eliminates unwanted pregnancies.
- If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a less than 1 % chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after one heat cycle your pet has an 8 % chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increases to 26 %.
- Pets with diabetes or epilepsy should be spayed to prevent hormonal changes that may interfere with medication.

Neutering your male pet (Castration)

Removal of the testicles and spermatic cord. Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the 2nd most common tumor in male dogs.

- Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis.
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors.
- Reduces roaming and fighting.
- Eliminates or reduces spraying or marking in males neutered before 6 months of age or before the onset of these behaviors.
- Eliminates the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Eliminates unwanted litters.

3 to 6 months is the optimum age for spaying and neutering. The surgery is done using a gas anesthetic and takes approximately 20 minutes. Recovery is rapid in most cases; however there might be some slight discomfort for one to two days. Therefore, post-operative pain medications are recommended. You will need to keep the animal confined during healing and keep them from licking incision site.

Common Myths

Spaying or neutering your pet does NOT:

- Cause laziness or hyperactivity
- Reduce its instinct to protect your family or home
- Cause immature behaviors
- Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity
- Alter its personality in any manner.