

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.