

Spay or Neuter Your Pet

Spaying or neutering your pet provides many health and behavioral benefits.

It also prevents the unwanted birth of animals for which it might be difficult to find good homes.

Spay or neuter surgery is safe to perform when your pet is as young as 8 weeks. Even if your pet is older, the benefits of spaying or neutering are numerous. Spaying and neutering any pet not specifically intended for breeding is part of responsible pet ownership. Consult with your veterinarian about the best age to spay or neuter your pet.

Benefits

- ▶ Reduces the risk of mammary cancer in females.
- ▶ Reduces the risk of prostate problems and tumors in males.
- ▶ Altered pets are less likely to roam and are less likely to be aggressive.
- ▶ Prevents pyometra, a bacterial infection in the uterus that can be fatal.
- ▶ Decreases urine odor in males and makes male cats less likely to spray urine to mark territory.
- ▶ Altered pets are less likely to make inappropriate mounting behaviors toward people or objects.
- ▶ Eliminates heat periods that bring unwanted attention from unaltered neighborhood pets.
- ▶ Helps to control pet overpopulation.

Dispelling Myths

- ▶ Spaying or neutering will not change your pet's personality or training, or its ability to work or hunt.
- ▶ There is no benefit to your pet in allowing it to have a litter or go through a heat period before being altered.
- ▶ Roughly one-fourth of all dogs in shelters are purebred. Pet owners who are considering not altering their purebred dog or cat should consider this.

Spay or neuter your pet.

**Be part of the solution to pet overpopulation
and give your pet a healthier life, too.**



*Helping people give their animals
a high quality of life.*

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