



An estimated 10 million cats and dogs are euthanized every year due to overpopulation and a lack of homes. The euthanasia rate is higher for cats than dogs, both in Oregon and across the nation.

SAMPLE

If pets are not spayed or neutered, the potential results are staggering. In seven years, a fertile cat and her offspring could produce over 400,000 cats. In six years, a female dog and her offspring could produce over 65,000 dogs. There are not enough homes for the cats and dogs currently in shelters, let alone future kittens and puppies.

You can be part of the solution to this sad problem when you spay or neuter your pet.

It's that simple.

Spay or Neuter Your Pet

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is a nonprofit organization of veterinarians who are dedicated to helping people give their animals a high quality of life.

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With acknowledgment to Marla McGeorge, DVM

**Oregon Veterinary
Medical Association**

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Why spay or neuter?

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.

How old does my pet have to be?

Spay or neuter surgery is safe to perform when your pet is as young as 8 weeks old. Even if your pet is older, the benefits of spaying or neutering are numerous.

What is the procedure?

A spay surgery, also called an ovariectomy, is performed on females. Under general anesthesia, the reproductive tract, including ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus, are removed. Neutering of males involves removal of the testicles.

Benefits for your pet...and you!

- 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. This helps to prevent pets from becoming lost or stolen, being hit by cars, or contracting a contagious disease through fighting with other animals.
- Prevents the occurrence of pyometra in females. Pyometra is a bacterial infection in the uterus. If the bacteria gets into the pet's bloodstream, it 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 sexual approaches toward people or objects.
- Eliminates heat periods that bring unwanted attention from unaltered neighborhood pets.
- Helps to control pet overpopulation by reducing the number of litters of puppies or kittens who will need good homes.

Let's dispel some myths:

- Spaying or neutering **will not** alter your pet's training or its ability to work or hunt.
- Dogs and cats have sex strictly to satisfy hormone-induced instincts, so spaying or neutering does not "deprive" them. In fact, the procedure may result in your pet showing less anxiety.
- There is no benefit to your pet in allowing it to have a litter or go through a heat period before being altered.
- Overweight pets are not overweight because they have been spayed or neutered, but instead because they eat too much and get too little exercise.
- Roughly one-fourth of all dogs in shelters are purebred. Pet owners who are considering not altering their purebred pet should keep this fact in mind.

It's simple.

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

Consult with your veterinarian about spay or neuter surgery for your pet.