

SPAY/NEUTER FACT SHEET

The decision to spay or neuter your pet is an important one for pet owners. But it can be the single best decision you make for their long-term welfare.

Spay/Neuter Helps:

- Prevent diseases, extending the life of your pet.
- Prevents male dogs from roaming to find females, which can endanger their lives by crossing busy streets or ending up in the wrong hands.
- Prevents male cats from spraying –reducing odor in your house!
- Keeps costs down: the amount of money you would make selling puppies or kittens is usually much less than the cost of caring for the animals while they are in your care.
- Reduces euthanasia in shelters. You may think you have good homes for your puppies or kittens, but it's very likely many of them will end up in shelters.
- Reduces aggression tendencies – Studies show that most dog bites involve dogs who are unaltered.

More Information on Why Spaying or Neutering is Important to Consider:

- Pyometra, a potentially fatal uterine infection, occurs in between 15-24% of intact female dogs. Spaying completely eliminates the risk of this disease.
- Euthanasia of healthy pets is the number one cause of death for dogs and cats each year, a loss of 10-15% of the entire pet population.
- Early age sterilization is quicker recovery and less stress on the pet.
- Intact dogs and cats have 7 times the risk of developing mammary gland tumors as they age than altered dogs and cats do.
- Testicular tumors are the second most common tumor type in dogs; neutering completely eliminates all risk of developing testicular tumors.
- Prostate disease is common in intact male dogs, by 2 1/2 years of age, half of all intact male dogs have evidence of prostate disease.
- Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat. Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds—not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.
- It is highly cost-effective. The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter.

