

## Spaying/Neutering General Information

The most common method of sterilization in cats and dogs is spaying (females) and neutering (males). Spaying and neutering is a surgical removal of reproductive organs as a means of birth control in animals. The procedure can be done in pediatric patients as young as 6 weeks of age and is recommended at least by the age of 6 months to prevent unwanted heats and litters of offspring.

### Benefits of Spaying/Neutering Your Pet

- Reduces the overpopulation of companion animals
- Increases pets chances of a longer/healthier life by an average of 1-3 years in dogs and 3-5 years in cats
- Decreases roaming which decreases risk of disease and getting hurt; 85% of dogs hit by automobiles are not spayed/neutered
- No heats or unwanted litters
- Decreases taxpayers expense in handling strays and decreases the public safety concerns of disease and aggressive animals

### Myths About Spay/Neuter

- Q. My pet will get fat and lazy:  
A. Pets are overweight because they are overfed and don't get enough exercise.
- Q. I don't want my dog/cat to feel less masculine:  
A. Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego.  
Neutering will not change his basic personality or cause him to have an emotional reaction.
- Q. I want my dog to be protective:  
A. Spaying/neutering does not affect natural instinct to protect. The personality is formed more by genetics and environment.
- Q. I want my pet to have another just like him/her:  
A. A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean their offspring will be a carbon copy. Offspring may have more characteristics of the mate or the less desirable traits. Chances are you can find a wonderful pet at the Shelter with many fabulous characteristics that you will love also.
- Q. It's too expensive to have my pet spayed/neutered:  
A. This is a relatively small cost compared to the cost of a litter of young that will need food and medical care.  
You also don't risk the cost of possible complications. Your animal shelter can help you get the best bargain for spay/neuter, just ask!

### Consequences of NOT Spaying/Neutering

- An unsplayed female cat, her mate, and all their offspring producing 2 litters per year with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total **11,801 cats in just 5 years!**
- An unsplayed female dog, her mate, and all their pups and their pups' pups, if none are spayed or neutered, can add up to **67,000 dogs in just 6 years!**

**Please help us reduce pet overpopulation by having your pets spayed/neutered.**