

# Spay & Neuter Facts

All pets should be spayed or neutered for many reasons.

## FEMALES (Spaying – Ovariohysterectomy)

Prevents signs of estrus (heat)

Prevents blood stains on the carpet from the “heat” cycle

Decreases the number of unwanted puppies and kittens

Decreases the chance of developing breast tumors later in life

Decreases the chance of cystic ovaries and uterine infections later in life

Anesthesia is a much less risk at the younger age

Prevents breast development if done before breeding age

## MALES (Neutering – Castration)

Decreases the desire to roam the neighborhood

Decreases aggression; pet may become more affectionate

Decreases incidence of prostate cancer later in life

Prevents odor of male cat urine

Prevents male cat spraying and marking furniture and walls

May prevent male dog from hiking leg and marking

## Your community will also benefit!

Unwanted animals are becoming a very real concern. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance; soiling parks and streets, ruining shrubs, frightening children or elderly people, creating noise and other disturbances, causing automobile accidents, and sometimes even killing livestock or other pets. As a potential source of rabies and other diseases, they can become a public health hazard. The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals will cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

## More Facts about Spaying & Neutering

Spaying or neutering does not cause a pet to get fat or lazy. Spaying or neutering does, however, result in a slower metabolism, so pets should be fed a proper diet and given adequate exercise. Personalities are not altered by spaying or neutering. Personalities do not fully develop until two years of age. Aggressiveness and viciousness are not the result of surgery. Personalities will only get better. Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and techniques, but there is always some small risk when an anesthetic is used. It is much easier on the pet to be spayed before going through a “heat” cycle, due to the smaller size of the reproductive tract. The best age to spay or neuter your pet is 6-8 months of age. Surgery is performed painlessly while your pet is under general anesthesia. Postsurgical pain is minimal, but pain medications are available from your veterinarian. Most pets go home the day after surgery is performed.

