

# Spay or Neuter Your Pet

Nearly 10 million cats and dogs are euthanized every year due to overpopulation and a lack of homes. You can be part of the solution to this sad problem when you spay or neuter your pet. 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.

## Why Spay or Neuter?

Spaying or neutering your pet provides many health and behavioral benefits. It also prevents the unwanted birth of animals that may be difficult to place into good homes. Spaying or neutering your pet will not alter the pet's training or its ability to work or hunt. Dogs and cats mate strictly to satisfy hormone-induced instincts, so spaying or neutering does not deprive them.

## When to Spay or Neuter:

Spay or neuter surgery is safe to perform when your pet is as young as 8 weeks old, but normal recommendations are around 6 months of age. Even if your pet is older, the benefits of spaying or neutering are numerous.

## Benefits for Your Pet...and You!

Altered pets are less likely to roam and are less aggressive. This helps to prevent pets from becoming lost or stolen, being hit by cars, or contracting a contagious disease

through fighting or roaming with other animals.

Reduces the risk of mammary cancer in females.

Reduces the risk of prostate problems and tumors in males.

Decreases urine odor in males and makes male cats less likely to spray urine to mark territory.

Helps control pet overpopulation by reducing the numbers of litters of puppies and kittens who will need good homes.

No heat periods that bring unwanted attention from unaltered neighborhood pets.

Be part of the solution to pet overpopulation and give your pet a healthier life, too. Consult your veterinarian about spay or neuter surgery for your unaltered pet.