

# SPAY AND NEUTER

## Why spay or neuter?

Every year, millions of unwanted dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, are euthanized. By having your dog or cat sterilized, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens. Spaying and neutering prevents unwanted litters and may reduce many of the behavioral problems associated with the mating instinct.

Removing a female dog or cat's ovaries eliminates heat cycles and generally reduces the unwanted behaviors that may lead to owner frustration. Removing the testes from male dogs and cats reduces the breeding instinct and can have a calming effect, making them less inclined to roam and more content to stay at home.

Early spaying of female dogs and cats can help protect them from some serious health problems later in life such as uterine infections and breast cancer. Neutering your male pet can also lessen its risk of developing benign prostatic hyperplasia (enlarged prostate gland) and testicular cancer.

These procedures have no effect on a pet's intelligence or ability to learn, play, work or hunt. Most pets tend to be better behaved following surgical removal of their ovaries or testes, making them more desirable companions.

One pair of unspayed/unneutered dogs and their offspring can create **67,000 dogs** in just **six years**.

One pair of unspayed/unneutered cats and their offspring can produce **420,000 cats** in just **seven years**.



## Benefits for your Community

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Spaying and neutering helps reduce the number of strays and unwanted animals in our community.

- ✦ Stray animals get into garbage cans, scare people, cause car accidents, and damage property.
- ✦ Irresponsible or accidental breeding contributes to dog attacks and bites.
- ✦ Some stray animals kill or injure wildlife.
- ✦ Communities spend thousands of tax dollars every year to provide care for unwanted, abandoned and neglected animals.

## What are some myths?

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Pet owners cite many reasons why they won't spay or neuter their animals. Among them:

“My pet will become fat.”

- ✦ Spaying and neutering can decrease your pet's metabolism but proper feeding and exercise will prevent obesity.

“He's purebred so he can't be fixed.”

- ✦ Purebred animals and their offspring end up homeless and in shelters. Purebred animals who are not spayed or neutered can also contribute to the problem of overpopulation.

“I will find good homes for all of the kittens (or puppies).”

- ✦ If each of the great homes ready to welcome your pet's offspring would instead adopt from a shelter, we could potentially save the lives of deserving animals awaiting a new home.

“My pet is so special I want another pet just like her.”

- ✦ There is no guarantee that puppies and kittens will inherit their parents' best qualities. In fact, they may just as easily inherit the worst qualities.