



Spay/Neuter Fact Sheet

What is Spay/Neuter?

- Spaying or neutering is surgical sterilization to prevent animals from having babies. Spaying of females involves the removal of the entire reproductive tract (uterus and ovaries). Neutering of males is done by removing the testicles. Both procedures are performed using strict sterile techniques while the pet is under general anesthesia.

Spay/Neuter Helps:

- Prevents disease, extending the life of your pet. Tumors, prostate disease and pyometra (a potentially fatal uterine infection) are all increased risk of animals still intact.
- 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. Millions of pets are euthanized in shelters in the United States every year. You may have good homes for your puppies or kittens, but it's very likely many of them will end up in shelters.

Benefits of Early Age Spay/Neuter

- Spay/Neuter can be performed on young dogs and cats that are at least 8 weeks old and weigh 2 lbs or more.
- Early surgery is much less physiologically stressful for younger patients – the surgery is faster, easier, and less stressful on both the patient and surgeon.
- There are fewer complications associated with early age spay/neuter.
- Anesthetic recovery and healing are shorter than in adults as well.
- Spaying a female before her first estrus has a strong protective effect against development of mammary gland tumors later in life.
- The unintentional delay in neutering pets is often responsible for the production of accidental litters that end up at shelters.