

Spaying or Neutering Your Pet

If you do not intend to breed your pet, spaying or neutering is important for many reasons. Not only will you be doing your part to reduce the unwanted pet population (millions of which are euthanized each year), you will help ensure that your pet stays healthy and is an enjoyable house pet.

The best time to spay or neuter your pet is when they are young, generally around six months. It is preferable to spay females before their first heat, as it decreases the chance of mammary cancer later in life. At this time the reproductive tract is also smaller and less developed, making the surgery easier on your pet. The surgery is performed under general anesthesia, with minimal surgical risk or post-operative pain.

Your pet will not get fat and lazy as a result of the surgery. Diet, exercise and heredity have much more influence on this.

Benefits

Females:

- prevents signs of estrus (heat)
- prevents blood stains on carpet from heat cycle
- decreases chance of breast cancer
- eliminates chance of cystic ovaries
- eliminates chance of uterine infection
- eliminates unwanted pregnancy

Males:

- decreases incidence of prostate disease
- eliminates testicular cancer
- decreases desire to roam and fight
- decreases odour of urine
- helps prevent spraying