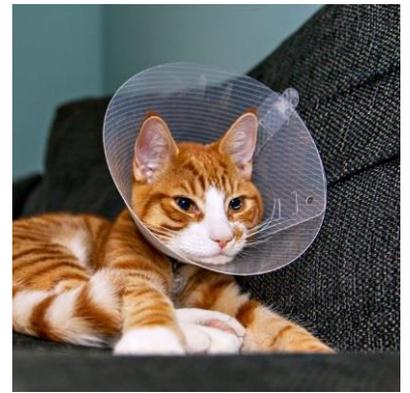




Important Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet:

More than 4 million pets are euthanized in the U.S. animal shelters each year simply because they have no home. Many puppies and kittens are less than 6 months old. Help stop this needless loss of life. SPAY or NEUTER your pet.



Spaying your female pet (*Ovariohysterectomy*):

Removal of the ovaries and the uterus.

- **Ideal age is 4-6 months before the first heat cycle.**

*Eliminates the risk of ovarian & uterine cancer.

*Eliminates unwanted pregnancies.

*Eliminates the chance of a Pyometra. Pyometra is an infection in the uterus and is much more difficult to manage than a routine infection and in some cases can cause death.

*If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a 0.5% chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after one heat cycle, your pet has an 8% chance and if spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increases to 26%. After two years, no protective benefit exists. No decrease in mammary gland cancer is seen compared to non-spayed, however there is still a lower risk of uterine infection and uterine/ovarian cancer.

*If your cat does develop mammary cancer in 99% of cases the cancer is malignant & aggressive. Action has to be taken quickly, a mastectomy of all teets is the required treatment.

Neutering your male pet (Castration):

Removal of the testicles.

- **Ideal age is 4- 6 months for cats, small & medium breed dogs.**
- **It is recommended to wait until 1 year of age in large & giant breed dogs.**

*Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common tumor in dogs.

*Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis.

*Reduces the risk of perianal (around anus) tumors.

*Reduces roaming and fighting.

*Eliminates or reduces spraying or urine marking in neutered males before 6 months of age or before the onset of these behaviors.

*Eliminated the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

*Eliminates unwanted litters.

Common myths

Spaying or neutering your pet does not:

- *Cause laziness or hyperactivity
- *Reduce its instinct to protect your family and home
- *Cause immature behaviors
- *Postpone or delay normal behavioral or physical maturity
- *Alter its personality in any manner.

Our staff members can answer your questions about spaying or neutering your pet or any other procedure your pet may undergo at our hospital. Please don't hesitate to ask.

The "best time" to spay or neuter a pet is a topic of much debate these days. It is approved as young as 8 weeks of age by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) so all pets coming from the Humane Society will already be spayed & neutered because population control is one of their main objectives.

We will discuss timing of the spay, or neuter, for your pet on an individual basis.

Source: firstline