

SPAYING AND NEUTERING YOUR PETS

Should You Spay or Neuter Your Pet?

Most cats and dogs should be spayed or neutered at an early age. Animal shelters are crowded with unwanted pets that, in many cases, are the result of accidental or poorly planned breeding. Unfortunately, the majority of these unwanted pets are never adopted.

Spaying or neutering your feline or canine companion helps contribute to better health and a longer life for the pet, and peace of mind for you.

Three Good Reasons Why You Should Spay or Neuter a Pet

Reason Number One:

Spaying or neutering contributes to a longer, healthier life for your pet.

Spaying your pet before her first estrous cycle (that is, before she reaches sexual maturity) greatly reduces her chances of developing breast cancer, the threat of uterine and ovarian cancer, and uterine infection, which are common occurrences in unaltered females. Neutering your male cat or dog may prevent testicular tumors and prostate

problems. Neutering also decreases the possibility of perianal tumors and hernias, which are commonly observed in older, unaltered dogs. Because neutered cats are less likely to roam, the threat of abscesses caused by bites and disease transmitted by fighting are greatly reduced. Many veterinarians encourage that pets be spayed or neutered. Dr. Flanary recommends that the best time to have this procedure performed is when your pet is five (5) months old.

Reason Number Two:

You are helping to alleviate the cat and dog overpopulation problem.

Each year, millions of unwanted cats and dogs are euthanized (put to sleep) at shelters across the country. Many of these are the result of accidental breeding by free-roaming unaltered pets. The more pets spayed or neutered, the fewer cats and dogs will have to be destroyed.

Reason Number Three:

An altered cat or dog is a better pet for your family.

No family wants to cope with an unwanted litter. Spaying prevents your pet from giving birth to unwanted kittens or puppies. Males neutered early in life are less aggressive toward other males and are not distracted by females in heat. A neutered male will be less tempted to leave your property and cross

that dangerous street searching for a mate. Neutered males are also less likely to mark territory with their urine. Spaying your female pet eliminates the problem of stray males camping in your yard and decreases her desire to roam and breed.

Five Common Excuses For Not Spaying or Neutering Pets

Excuse Number One:

My pet will get fat and lazy.

Neutering or spaying may diminish your pet's natural tendency to wander, but will not affect the overall activity level. When pets do gain weight after being altered, it is usually attributed to a combination of overfeeding and inactivity. Just remember to adjust the amount of feeding to your pet's activity level.

Excuse Number Two:

My pet's personality will change.

Any change will be for the better. After being altered, your pet may be less aggressive toward other animals, will be less likely to wander, and may have a better personality. Spraying (urine marking) which is often done by dogs and cats to mark their territory, diminishes or ceases after pets are altered.

Excuse Number Three:

We can sell kittens or puppies and make money.

Even well-known breeders are fortunate if they break even when raising purebred litters; stud fees, vaccinations and other health care costs consume most of the “profit.” Finding good homes for the kittens and puppies can be difficult and shelters are already crowded with unwanted pets. Leave the breeding to professional cat and dog breeders.

Excuse Number Four:

My children should witness our pet giving birth.

There are several educational alternatives for witnessing your pet giving birth; contact Dr. Flanary and/or your local library for appropriate alternatives. Remember, there are already too many cats and dogs in shelters. Be sure to avoid this excuse so as not to contribute to the unwanted pet population.

Excuse Number Five:

I am concerned about my pet undergoing anesthesia.

Placing a pet under anesthesia is a very common concern of owners. Although there is always a slight risk involved, the procedures currently used by veterinarians are very safe. Dr. Flanary monitors the heart and respiratory rates during surgery to ensure that her patients

are doing well under anesthesia. The medical benefits of having your pet spayed or neutered far outweigh the slight risk involved with undergoing anesthesia. Consult Dr. Flanary if you are concerned about this aspect of the procedure. She can use the anesthetic used by hospitals for infants called Sevoflurane to increase the safety of anesthesia.

Take Action to Spay / Neuter Your Pet

Thousands of companion animals are spayed and neutered every day. Both operations are low-risk procedures, usually without complications. Consult with Dr. Flanary about the particular procedure that will be performed on your pet.

Normally Dr. Flanary will instruct you to withhold food and water from your pet for 12 hours (or overnight) before the operation. The type of procedure will dictate your pet’s length of stay at the veterinary hospital, but usually it is a one night stay. When your pet comes home, he / she must be confined for about three days. You must keep your pet quiet and prevent him / her from jumping and / or biting at the sutures. Dr. Flanary or her staff will discuss post-operative care of the incision, including when the sutures will be removed.



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**Be Responsible:
Schedule Today!**