

Why Should I Spay or Neuter My Pet?



“It’s a small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of more unwanted animals.”

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, every year 4 to 6 million animals are euthanized because there are no homes for them.

Source for information:
American Kennel Club, Inc.
Humane Society of the United States

SPAY/NEUTER as early as six months of age

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for your Pet

- *Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- *Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- *Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle.
- *Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- ◆Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- ◆Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- ◆Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 21 days, often twice a year, in dogs and an average of six to seven days, three or more times a year, in cats. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.
- ◆Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.
- ◆Can make pets less likely to bite.
- ◆Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering Are Good for the Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs.
- Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife.

Should I Breed My Dog?

You may eventually decide to breed your dog. Please don’t take this responsibility lightly. As dog lovers, let’s try to resolve rather than aggravate pet population issues and the possibility of homeless pets. You must have plans for each and every puppy before the litter is even conceived.

Also, it’s overoptimistic to assume that you can recoup your investment or even profit by breeding dogs. Few people come out ahead by selling puppies, once they have paid stud fees, provided veterinary care and food for the mother and litter and have accounted for the enormous investment of time.

Breeding dogs also has its emotional costs. Ask a breeder what it’s like to see a bitch through a difficult birth or cesarean section, or to witness the death of a beloved bitch or her puppies. Death can play as large a role as life when it comes to breeding dogs, and rare is the litter in which all the puppies survive.

If you decide to move forward please make sure that you have researched the risk of breeding with your breed of dog. A number of risks exist with pregnancy for the bitch and her litter that many pet owners are not aware of.

Should you decide to breed your dog, we hope you will embrace the belief that each new litter you produce should represent an improvement over the last. This means that you don’t choose the dog whom lives down the street to mix genes with your bitch because he happens to be close by and performs for free. Try to find an individual whose bloodlines will strengthen your dog’s weaknesses and emphasizes his or her good qualities. The rewards of your discretion will be long-lived.

Even if you can guarantee homes for all the puppies or kittens your pet deliveries, it simply means that there will be fewer potential homes for other unwanted pets.