

Benefits of Spay/Neuter for Your Pets

One of the most important health decisions you can make for your pet is to spay or neuter your cat or dog. Spaying and neutering refer to the surgical procedures that sterilize your animal and ensure that your pet cannot reproduce. If we do not spay/neuter our pets, we potentially take homes away from those animals in greatest need. There is an overabundance of stray and homeless animals that will invariably be euthanised. By spaying//neutering your pet, you are helping the homeless animals that exist to find homes. Spaying involves the removal of the ovaries and uterus of a female pet. The procedure involves minimal hospitalization and provides lifelong benefits. Neutering involves the removal of the testicles of your male pet – and will improve his health as well as his behavior.

What are some of the benefits of spaying a female cat or dog? You reduce or eliminate the heat cycles, so that males will not be attracted to her. She will have less of a desire to roam. You decrease the risk of mammary gland tumors. The likelihood of her having ovarian and/or uterine cancer is also decreased. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Again, you are reducing the number of unwanted cats, dogs, kittens and puppies.

Among the benefits of neutering males are: the lessening of their desire to roam or escape which, in turn, decreases the likelihood of their being injured in fights or car accidents. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate. The risk of testicular cancer is eliminated. The incidence of prostate cancer is also decreased. Aggressive behavior is far less common, including biting. Neutering your pet helps him live a longer, healthier life and reduces the number of unwanted pets.

By spaying or neutering your pet, you are benefiting your community. Unwanted animals pose many problems and can be a great public nuisance – creating noise, soiling streets and property, frightening people, causing automobile accidents and fighting with and even killing or injuring other pets.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, “The capture, impoundment and eventual destruction of unwanted animals costs taxpayers and private humanitarian agencies over a billion dollars each year. As a potential source of rabies and other less serious diseases, they can be a public hazard.”

Adopting a pet requires a lifetime of commitment to him and for his well-being. It is in your best interest as well as his to make him a happy, healthy member of your home and a good citizen in your community.