

SPAY/NEUTER

Do you know all the benefits of having your pet spayed or neutered? Helping control the pet population is indeed important. One female cat and her offspring can produce more than 420,000 cats in seven years! One female dog and her offspring can produce more than 67,000 dogs in six year! .There are many other advantages. Do you know what these surgeries really involve? A spay is an ovariectomy performed on a female dog or cat. It is an abdominal surgery during which the ovaries and the uterus are removed. Neuter is really a generic term for the surgery on a male or female but in this context is a nice word for castration- removal of the testicles. Ideally, the surgeries should be done before the pet is six months old because many females will come into heat by this age and many males will already be exhibiting sexual behavior by this age. Did you realize that if you spay a dog or cat before it comes into heat, you just about eliminate the chance of them getting breast cancer? Dogs and cats that are not spayed can have false pregnancies (and of course, real ones!) and maybe subject to develop pyometra- a life threatening infection of the uterus.

Males that are not neutered (especially cats) are much more likely to fight. This can lead to several types of infections. Non-neutered male dogs are also prone to benign prostatic hyperplasia (yes, BPH like in men). With this condition, dogs can have trouble and/or pain during urination, possible blood or infection in their urine, and can even have so much swelling that they can't urinate at all. Not being able to urinate is life threatening. Males that are not neutered can also develop testicular cancer and anal tumors.

Neutering your male dog or cat does not make him a wimp! However, it can help curb aggression. And spaying and neutering does not have to make your pet overweight. Most pets gain too much weight because we feed them too much, give too many treats or people food, and don't exercise them enough (just like us!). With portion control, exercise, and a lower fat food, your pet can maintain a healthy weight.

After spay or neuter surgery, most pets can go home the same day. Their incisions are small and usually have no external sutures. They heal quickly and are back to their normal routine very soon. Pain medication given at the time of surgery and continued orally at home makes them feel better and heal quicker. Remember, it is our responsibility as pet owners to keep our canine and feline companions as healthy and happy as possible. Now, go take your dog for a walk or play with your cat and its favorite toy. It will make all of you feel better!

We would like to hear from you. Let us know what veterinary or pet topics you want to know more about.

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