

TOP 10 REASONS TO SPAY & NEUTER



Whether you've recently adopted a pet or you're considering it, one of the most important health decisions you'll make is to spay or neuter your cat or dog. Spaying a cat or dog is a routine veterinary procedure performed under general anesthesia that usually requires minimal hospitalization and a quick recovery time. Spaying is removing the ovaries and uterus of a female pet and offers lifelong health benefits. Neutering is the removing the testicles of your male dog or cat and will vastly improve your pet's behavior and keep him close to home. Here are some more good reasons:

- 1. Your spayed female dog or cat will live a longer, healthier life.** Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. A cat's first heat usually occurs by age 6-12 months; for some as early as four months of age. The time of a dog's first heat differs from dog to dog but on average occurs when she is six months old.
- 2. There are also dramatic health benefits from neutering your male dog or cat.** Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.
- 3. Spayed females do not go into heat.** While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently - sometimes all over the house!
- 4. Neutered males won't need to roam.** An unneutered male in search of a mate will do almost anything to get one. That includes making Houdini-like escapes from the house and digging his way under the fence. Once he's free to roam, he risks being hit by a car and injuries from fights with other male cats.
- 5. Spaying and neutering will NOT make your pet fat.** Weight gain is caused by lack of exercise and overfeeding. Your dog and cat will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.
- 6. Spayed and neutered cats and dogs behave much better.** They are free to focus their attention on their human families. They will no longer mark their territory. They protect their home and family just as well as intact dogs and cats. Many male aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.
- 7. Spaying or neutering is cost-effective.** The cost of surgery is a lot less than the cost of having or caring for a litter. It saves veterinary bills on the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray! And let's not forget the cost of carpet cleaning bills from spraying.
- 8. It's good for the community.** Stray animals pose real problems in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, damage the local fauna, cause car accidents and create general mayhem and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals on the streets.
- 9. It teaches your children responsibility.** Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth. Letting your pet produce offspring that you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children - especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.
- 10. Spaying or neutering your dog and cat is the right thing to do!** Millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds suffer as strays or are euthanized every year. These high numbers are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.

Who We Are: The OREGON SPAY/NEUTER FUND is a not-for-profit 100% volunteer organization who works to end pet overpopulation and the resulting deaths of animals in our shelters by removing barriers to spay/neuter for companion animals. We address the main causes that keep people from doing the right thing: cost, education, transportation, and pre-treatment requirements. If you need help spaying or neutering your dog or cat, please contact us at (503) 286-2411 or info@oregonspayneuter.org. **Go to our home page www.oregonspayneuter.org to DOWNLOAD OUR COUPON for reduced-cost spay/neuter for dogs and cats at participating vets in the Portland Metro, Willamette Valley & Oregon Coast Areas.**