



Care. **Compassion.** Convenience.

## SPAY AND NEUTER INFORMATION

### Spay and Neuter Recommendations

The most important thing to know about spaying and neutering is that it saves lives. Only about half of the animals in shelters get homes. The other half will be euthanized. Unless you are sincerely interested in becoming a breeder our recommendation is that all dogs and cats be spayed or neutered. We recommend spaying and neutering your dog or cat at 4 months of age.

### Spay and Neuter Benefits

Neutering reduces the likelihood of spraying to mark his territory. It eliminates the incidence of roaming to find females which reduces the possibility of territorial fighting. It also eliminates the risk of testicular cancer in both dogs and cats and the chance of prostate disease in dogs.

Spaying eliminates unwanted heat cycles, the mess and associated annoying behaviors that can accompany estrus. Spaying eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra). It significantly reduces the incidence of mammary cancer. The cost of spaying or neutering is significantly less than the cost to treat one of these illnesses.

### Misconceptions about Spaying and Neutering

Altering will not change your pet's personality. It does not cause them to become fat, although your pets calorie requirements will be lower. Evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat cycle live longer lives and are healthier.

### Surgical Procedure

Surgery for both males and females is performed under general anesthesia, your pet can go home the same day of the surgery and you will be given aftercare instructions when you take your pet home. Your pet will also be given a complete physical examination and it is suggested, if you wish, a baseline blood test to help ensure its safety during anesthesia and surgery.

Pain medicine will be given to your pet during the procedure and we recommend you take home pain medicine to use for several days following the surgery.

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