

Save lives. Spay or neuter your pet.

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When you spay or neuter your pet, you make a commitment not only to the health and wellness of your cat or dog, but also to the welfare of companion animals in your community as a whole. This routine medical procedure helps control pet overpopulation while also contributing to the prevention of medical and behavioral problems. Spaying and neutering your pet will allow your pet a happier and healthier life.

What is spay/neuter?

Spay and neuter procedures are routine surgeries performed by veterinarians. Typically, “spay” refers to the sterilization of female pets and “neuter” is associated with the castration of male pets. The surgeries are performed with the pet under anesthesia and prevent animals from creating offspring.

The benefits of spay/neuter

Healthier Pets Spay/neuter surgeries reduce or eliminate the risk of certain cancers and other diseases. Because the surgeries reduce pets’ tendency to fight with other animals, they also protect your pet from fight-related injuries. Also, fixed animals are less inclined to wander away from home, and therefore less likely to be lost or hit by cars.

Happier Families Spay/neuter eliminates spraying (marking objects with urine). It also reduces yowling/howling and escaping.

You will avoid the mess or inconvenience of dealing with a female in heat.

Healthier Communities The majority of dog bites are caused by unaltered males. Pregnant or nursing female dogs are more likely to be aggressive.

Communities that actively pursue animal population control through the use of spay/neuter have lower shelter euthanasia rates. There are far fewer unwanted kittens and puppies born.

How will the surgery affect my pet?



After your pet’s surgery, you may notice improved behavior. Spayed and neutered animals are less aggressive, more relaxed and tend to be more affectionate. They are content to stay near their owner, less likely to wander away from home and often become easier to train when undistracted by hormones.

Spay/neuter does not make pets lazy or fat. Pets that become overweight are often inactive and overfed.

Pets do not have any concept of sexual identity. Your male pet will not suffer from an identity crisis when neutered!



How old must my pet be to be spayed or neutered?

Kittens and puppies can be altered at a very young age. It is recommended that the surgery be performed by the time the animal is twelve weeks old. The surgeries are fast and easy, and the recovery time is short. Typically, pets are only kept at the vet a few hours or overnight after the procedure.



Should my pet have one litter first?

Medical evidence shows that female pets that are spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Cats go into heat as early as five months, so spaying earlier will prevent the trauma and health risks of pregnancy. (Not to mention the additional costs associated with caring for kittens.)



How much does it cost?

Spay/neuter is a one-time expense that will save you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars over the life-time of your pet. By preventing the birth of unwanted litters, you avoid the cost of care to your pregnant pet and her offspring.

The price of surgery varies depending on the performing vet. However, low-cost certificates are available in the Central Alabama region. Contact Shelby Humane Society for more information.

But my pet is purebred...

It's estimated that purebred dogs and cats make up twenty-five percent of the pets in shelters. You don't have to breed your pet when you want a new kitten or puppy, just visit a shelter or rescue group!

My pet can have babies because I will find them all good homes..

Each home that you provide with a new puppy or kitten will be one less that will visit shelters to adopt a pet in desperate need of a loving home.

The problem of animal overpopulation

Shelby Humane Society receives nearly 8,000 unwanted animals each year. Pregnant pets or their newly born litters are dropped off at the shelter daily.

The companion animal population is so overwhelming in Shelby County that there are not enough homes to place each of the homeless cats and dogs in a loving families. Due to shelter crowding, over half of the animals received by Shelby Humane Society are euthanized.

Be a lifesaver!

By spaying or neutering your pet, you make a commitment to animal welfare. Every year, millions of cats and dogs enter animal shelters across the country. Pet owners have the power to prevent the burden that animal shelters feel from pet overpopulation