



The Eight Main Reasons to Spay and Neuter Your Companion Animal

Spaying and neutering are safe procedures. Both are simple surgeries to prevent reproduction in animals. Females are sterilized; males are neutered. These procedures are also called “fixing” your companion animal.

Spaying and neutering contribute to companion animals living longer and healthier lives. Spaying female cats and dogs, especially at a younger age, helps prevent uterine infections and mammary, uterine and ovarian cancers. Neutering your male dog or cat before 6 months of age can help prevent testicular, perianal and anal cancers. In the long run, you will see a reduction in veterinary care expenses. A veterinarian can safely sterilize your dog and cat starting at 8 weeks of age. Low and no cost spay and neuter services are available in most communities.

Your spayed female animal will not go into heat. Most female dogs go into heat twice a year, although small dogs can have three heats in one year. Cats go into heat every two to three weeks during the breeding season (14 – 15 hours of daylight). During their heats, female cats will meow and vocalize loudly, scratch at doors and windows trying to escape, and urinate more frequently, sometimes all over the house.

Your neutered male dog will not roam. An unneutered male dog will do anything to find a mate; this includes climbing over or digging under fences to escape from home in pursuit of a female in heat. Once your dog has escaped, he may be hit by a car, engage in fights with other male dogs, or get attacked by wildlife. An animal control officer may cite you for violations of local ordinances.

Your neutered male companion animal will have better behavior. Neutered dogs and cats will focus their attention on their family. They won't mark their territory around the house with a strong smell of urine. Unneutered male cats often get into violent fights that may result in FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), which is transmitted from a deep puncture wound caused by an infected cat. Many aggression problems can be avoided if you neuter your companion animal at a young age.

Spaying and neutering will not make your companion animal fat.. Overfeeding and lack of exercise are what can cause those extra pounds.

Your dog or cat does not need to have a litter to teach children about the miracle of life. Letting your companion animal breed and have babies that you can't or won't care for is not a good lesson for our children, especially when there are a large number of homeless pets. Thousands of dogs and cats that no one wants end up being euthanized in animal shelters. It is more important to teach your children about the importance of fostering and adopting animals from shelters and rescue organizations.

Spaying and neutering helps combat the overpopulation of animals who become homeless. Every year millions of dogs and cats of all breeds and ages are euthanized in animal shelters or end up as abandoned strays, relying on strangers to provide food, water and shelter. Nobody wants animals to suffer. Do your part by spaying and neutering your companion animal and feral cats in your neighborhood. The bottom line is that spaying and neutering companion animals reduces overpopulation in shelters.