

NEUTERING VS. BREEDING YOUR PET

The decision whether to neuter your pet or to breed him or her should be an informed decision. If you are considering breeding your pet, we strongly encourage you to read not only this handout, but to read as much about your specific breed and pet reproduction in general.

WHAT IS NEUTERING?

Neutering is the surgical removal of your pet's reproductive organs. For males this is the removal of the testicles (*castration or neuter*), and for females the ovaries, uterus, and fallopian tubes are removed (*ovariohysterectomy or spay*).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF NEUTERING YOUR PET?

BENEFITS FOR YOUR FAMILY:

- Decreased hassle associated with heat cycles (blood spotting on carpet/furniture)
- Decreased urine marking (spraying in cats, lifting leg in dogs)
- Helps decrease pets urge to wander or run away eliminating accidents (hit by car, lost)
- Eliminates the need to separate or confine your pet to prevent unwanted pregnancy
- Reduce unwanted stray dogs or cats around your home seeking your female pet in heat

BENEFITS FOR YOUR PET:

- Greatly decreases the risk of life-threatening uterine infection (*pyometra*)
- Decreases the risk of breast cancer (*mammary tumors*), especially if prior to 1st heat
- Decreases the risk of prostatic and testicular cancer in males
- Decreases the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer in females
- Helps to decrease aggressive tendencies in both sexes
- Decrease risk of sexually transmitted diseases

BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- Decreases the number of unwanted animals, therefore helping to eliminate
 - *overpopulating humane societies and animal shelters
 - *euthanizing in large numbers
 - *unwanted strays spreading disease to pets

WILL IT CHANGE MY PET'S INTELLIGENCE OR DISPOSITION?

Only for the better! Neutering your pet has no effect on intelligence. It can actually make them more gentle, affectionate, and better family members.

WILL IT MAKE MY PET GAIN WEIGHT OR GET FAT?

Removing the reproductive organs does affect your pet's metabolism. However, your pet will not gain weight if the diet is well regulated and exercise levels are maintained.

WHEN SHOULD MY PET HAVE THE SURGERY?

We recommend that your pet be neutered as early as 20 weeks of age (dependent on weight, breed, and health). Females should be neutered prior to their first heat cycle to avoid chances of mammary tumors.

IS THE SURGERY PAINFUL?

The surgery is performed painlessly while your pet is under general anesthesia. We offer pain medication for you to give at home following the surgery.