

# Reasons to Spay/Neuter Your Pet



## What is spay/neuter?

A spay is the surgical removal of a female's reproductive organs so that she can no longer become pregnant. A neuter is the surgical removal of a male animal's testicles so that he cannot impregnate a female. The surgeries are performed by a veterinarian while animals are under general anesthesia so that they do not feel pain. When someone says an animal is "fixed" or "altered" that means the animal has been spayed or neutered.



### **Spay/neuter benefits animals and the communities in which they live.**

Without spay and neuter initiatives, homeless animals are often euthanized, neglected or die of disease. Sterilization is critical for the management of community dogs and cats and related disease control concerns. Some diseases of concern include zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases are diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans, such as rabies.

### **Spay/neuter curbs undesirable hormone-related behaviors.**

Females no longer have a heat cycle; this eliminates the attraction and approach of unwanted attention by male dogs or cats. Eliminating the female heat cycle can also be beneficial to owners, as managing female dogs and cats in heat in a home can be difficult. Neutering male dogs and cats also prevents unwanted behaviors such as spraying/markings and humping.



### **Spay/neuter reduces health risks for the animals themselves.**

There are a number of complications that may arise from being intact and breeding; for example, pyometra (infection in the uterus) and reproductive cancers. These risks are eliminated when the animal is spayed or neutered. Neutering male dogs and cats also prevents testicular cancer and can reduce the incidence of diseases related to the prostate.



### **Spay/neuter is cost effective.**

By spaying or neutering your pet, you save the cost of caring for future litters and reduce the likelihood of your pet needing veterinary treatment for injuries occurring when roaming or fighting or complications arising from giving birth.