

## Top 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet

1. **Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.** Spaying helps prevent ovarian infections, uterine infections, and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs. Spaying your pet before the first heat offers the best protection from these disease.
2. **Neutering provides major health benefits for your male pet.** Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents prostate conditions as well as testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.
3. **Your spayed female won't go into heat.**
4. **Your male dog won't want to roam away from home.** An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging his way under the fence to escape from the house and once he is free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.
5. **Your neutered male will be much better behaved.** Neutered dogs focus their attention on their human families. Unneutered dogs may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.
6. **Spaying or neutering will not make your pet fat.** Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to gain weight-not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.
7. **It is highly cost-effective.** The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter.
8. **Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.** Stray animals pose a problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna, and frighten children. Spaying and neutering also reduces the number of animals on the street.
9. **Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about birth.** Letting your pet produce offspring is not a necessary lesson for your children, especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.
10. **Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.** Every year, millions of dogs are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.