

Spay and Neuter Myths

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Are you unsure as to whether you want to have your pet altered or don't think that it's necessary? Then here's something you should know: *Spaying or neutering your pet can help it live a longer, healthier life.*

It's true! Studies have shown that spayed or neutered pets are less likely to develop reproductive-related health problems. In fact, the earlier in life that a dog or cat is altered, the better. Another benefit to having a spayed or neutered dog or cat is that your pet won't stray away from home to search for a mate. Also, without the urge to mate, your pet is more likely to focus on you, resulting in a closer bond with your animal companion.

Consider this: If your pet roams away to find a mate, it faces the dangers of getting hit by a car, encountering people who might abuse it, getting in to a fight with another animal, catching a disease from another animal and other perils. Spaying or neutering your pet also helps to eliminate the pet overpopulation problem. Since there are not enough good homes for all of the pets that are born, it's important that you prevent your pet from reproducing.

Even if you can place all of the puppies or kittens that your pet may have, you cannot guarantee that those animals won't reproduce. If they do, you won't be able to control whether those litters will be placed in good homes.

Another benefit to having your dog or cat spayed or neutered is that most animal control agencies offer reduced licensing fees for sterilized pets.

Also, spaying or neutering your pet is affordable! Look through the "yellow pages" and ask for references from other pet owners you know to find the veterinarian whose services and fees are just right for you.

Q & A

Q: Isn't it dangerous for "Shadow" to undergo a spay or neuter surgery?

A: No. Millions of cats and dogs have been safely spayed or neutered by veterinarians across the country. The surgery is common and routine for most veterinarians. If you're concerned about the procedure, be sure to have your veterinarian thoroughly explain the steps of the surgery to you.

Q: If I have "Sammy" sterilized, won't he become fat and lazy?

A: Pets that have been spayed or neutered can be just as active as unsterilized pets. Remember that any pet can gain weight if it's not provided with appropriate nutrition and adequate exercise.

Q: Isn't it healthier for "Misty" if I breed her once?

A: No. Female dogs and cats are less likely to develop medical complications in their senior years if they've never been bred or experienced any estrus cycles.

Q: Won't "Jake's" personality change if I have him neutered?

A: No. The basic personality of your dog or cat won't change when it's sterilized.

Q: Wouldn't it be great for my kids to witness the miracle of life by letting "Bitsy" have a litter?

A: The birth of a litter of puppies, kittens or other small pets is truly miraculous. However, it's equally important to teach children about being responsible for these lives. Since this litter will add to the pet overpopulation problem and there's no guarantee that they or any of their future litters will have good, permanent homes, what other lesson will your child be learning from this experience? Homeless pets that already exist desperately need your help in teaching kids about responsibility to animals and respect for all life.