

Spay/Neuter Saves Lives

February is nationally recognized as "Spay/Neuter Awareness Month". The purpose is to encourage people to have their pets spayed/neutered before the spring and summer months when there is a rampant overproduction of puppies and kittens.

Spay/neutering helps to decrease those numbers and saves pets' lives. What are the many benefits to this surgery?

Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life. Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast tumors, which are cancerous in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems.

Your spayed female pet won't go into heat. When in heat, they'll often yowl and urinate more frequently-sometimes all over the house! Your male dog will be less likely to roam away from home. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate, including finding creative ways to escape from the house. Once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic, fights with other male animals and is free to contribute to overpopulation. Your neutered male may be better behaved. Unneutered dogs and cats are more likely to mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Your dog might be less likely to mount other dogs, people and inanimate objects after he's neutered. Some aggression problems may also be avoided by early neutering.

Please help reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in our community and be a responsible pet owner. Contact your veterinarian to schedule an appointment for your pet to be spayed or neutered. For more information and lower-cost options, visit www.fixyourpets.net or www.spaytennessee.org.

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