

# Important reasons to spay or neuter your pet

More than 4 million pets are euthanized in U.S. animal shelters each year simply because they have no home. Many are puppies and kittens less than 6 months old.

Help stop this needless loss of life. Spay or neuter your pet.

## Spaying your female pet (ovariohysterectomy):

**Removal of the ovaries and uterus.  
Ideal age is 4 to 6 months.**

- Eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer.
- Eliminates unwanted pregnancies.
- If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a less than 1 percent chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after one heat cycle, your pet has an 8 percent chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increases to 26 percent. After two years, no protective benefit exists.
- Pets with diabetes or epilepsy should be spayed to prevent hormonal changes that may interfere with medication.

## Neutering your male pet (castration):

**Removal of the testicles and spermatic cord.  
Ideal age is 4 to 6 months.**

- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common tumor in male dogs.
- Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis.
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors.
- Reduces roaming and fighting.
- Eliminates or reduces spraying or marking in males neutered before 6 months of age or before the onset of these behaviors.
- Eliminates the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Eliminates unwanted litters.

## Common myths

**Spaying or neutering your pet does not:**

- Cause laziness or hyperactivity
- Reduce its instinct to protect your family and home
- Cause immature behaviors
- Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity
- Alter its personality in any manner

**Our staff members can answer your questions about spaying or neutering your pet or any other procedure your pet may undergo at our hospital. Please don't hesitate to ask.**