

What does “spay” and “neuter” really mean?

Female dogs and cats are spayed by removing their reproductive organs, and male dogs and cats are neutered removing their testicles. In both cases the operation is performed while the pet is under anesthesia.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet

- Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer.
- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats make them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.
- Spaying or neutering can make pets less likely to bite.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering are Good for the Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with animals.

Spay or neuter surgery carries a one-time cost that is relatively small when one considers its benefits. It's a small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of more unwanted animals.

Volunteers for Animal Welfare's SPOT Clinic



**Stop
Pet
Overpopulation
Today**

(405) 606-8476

2017 S. Santa Fe, Oklahoma City, 73109

Dog spay/neuter: \$35

Cat spay/neuter: \$25

Core vaccinations: \$5

Rabies vaccination: \$5

Vaccinations not available unless you are spaying or neutering your pet.

All Services available for families whose gross yearly income is \$35,000 or less.

www.vawokc.org

Best Friends of Pets

SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program)

(405) 629-6795 www.bestfriendsokc.org

Available to qualified low-income pet owners receiving Medicaid, OKDHS or SSI benefits. Participating veterinarians all across OKC Metro area.

Dog spay/neuter: \$20

Cat spay/neuter: \$10

Rabies vaccination: \$5

**Low-Cost,
High Quality,
Spay/Neuter
Services for
Low-Income
Families**



**Stop unwanted
pregnancies by fixing
your cat or dog.**

**You may qualify for
financial help.....**

Myths & Facts of Spaying & Neutering

“What are spaying and neutering, and why does my pet need to have it done?”

The neutering operation for cats and dogs (spaying in females) is the best and safest method of pet birth control. The alternative to birth control is the mass destruction of millions of unwanted, surplus pets. This is costly not only to the taxpayer but repulsive to all of us who care about animals.



Fixing your pet means a happier, healthier animal that will live longer!

Spaying and neutering eliminates the risk of some cancers and diseases in dogs and cats, as well as the mess and discomfort associated with animals in heat. It also reduces the urge to roam, spray and mark territory.

Neutering not only enhances your pet's health and contentment, it reduces the cost of pet ownership.



The investment in neutering will more than pay for itself. The owner of a neutered animal has no expense in

caring for litters, fewer veterinary fees for health problems, and fewer accidents caused by the unaltered animal's desire to roam and fight.

MYTH: My pet will get fat and lazy.

FACT: The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise.

MYTH: It's better to have one litter first.



FACT: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age.

MYTH: My children should experience the miracle of birth.

FACT: Even if children are able to see a pet give birth—which is highly unlikely, since it usually occurs at night and in seclusion—the lesson they will really learn is that animals can be created and discarded as it suits adults. Instead, it should be explained to children that the real miracle is life and that preventing the birth of some pets can save the lives of others.

MYTH: But my pet is a purebred.

FACT: So is a least one out of four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed and purebred.

MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel less of a male.

FACT: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

MYTH: But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or Kitten) just like her.

FACT: A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. Are your children exactly like you in every way? An entire litter or puppies or kittens might even receive all of a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics.

MYTH: It's too expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.

FACT: The cost of spaying or neutering depends on the sex, size, and age of the pet and a number of other variables. It's a bargain compared to the cost of having a litter and ensuring the health of the mother and litter. Most importantly, it's a very small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

MYTH: I'll find good homes for the babies.

FACT: You may find homes for all of your pet's litter. But each home you find means one less home for the dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.

