



COMPANION

ANIMAL HOSPITAL, SPRINGFIELD VA
Companions for life

Spaying and Neutering

Spaying or neutering your pet is part of responsible pet ownership. Everyone who cares about animals must recognize the tragedy that exists today with the pet over-population problem. Hundreds of dogs and cats are euthanized in our local shelters every week. Many of these unfortunate animals were once beloved family pets, or purchased with the promise that they would lead safe and happy lives. There are simply too many unwanted dogs and cats and not enough homes. Too many times, well-meaning owners think they want to breed their pets, assuming that they have good homes for all the offspring. Too often these pets end up loose on the streets, chained in the backyard, and ignored by the family, or in shelters.

We **STRONGLY** encourage all pet owners to have their pets spayed or neutered! The term “spay” refers to the surgical procedure in which the uterus and ovaries are removed from a female (ovariohysterectomy). Males are castrated, meaning their testicles are surgically removed. This procedure is referred to as a “neuter.”

In addition to helping to quell the problem of pet over-population, spaying or neutering your pet will make him or her a better citizen, a better neighbor, and a better family member. They will not be anxious and distracted due to hormonal issues. They will be less likely to run away from home, less likely to fight, and generally easier to control. **THE SURGERY DOES NOT CHANGE THE PERSONALITY OF YOUR PET!**

Medically, the surgical removal of the reproductive organs has long-range health benefits for your pet. Females are less likely to develop an infected uterus (pyometra; a life-threatening condition). They are also less likely to develop mammary cancer later in life, and they will not be subject to the dangers of giving birth. Males will not develop testicular cancer and they will be far less likely to develop prostate troubles and peri-anal tumors later in life. It is a fact that on the whole, neutered pets live longer, healthier lives than unneutered pets.

Spaying and neutering your pets represents responsible pet ownership and is a tremendous benefit to the animal community and to society. Nine times out of ten, the terrible stories you hear on the news involve unneutered, uncontrolled pets. The animals, and their human victims, are the losers. As pet owners, we can set a positive example for others and contribute to the solution to this problem. If you have any questions or concerns about spaying or neutering your pet, please speak to the veterinarian during your appointment.