The Truth about Spaying & Neutering Pets

Why should I have my animal spayed/neutered?

The Benefits for your Pet...

Spaying and Neutering:

- reduces a pet's desire to roam in search of a mate, which can lead to car accidents, animal fights, attacks & injuries, stolen animals, etc.
- eliminates all the problems and risks involved in pregnancy and birth.
- eliminates the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer and mammary tumors in females.
- reduces the risk of prostate problems, testicular tumors, and hernias in males.
- allows your pet to relax, live a longer and healthier life, and enjoy being a part of the family.

The Benefits for your Community...

- Spayed and neutered animals are less likely to bite and attack.
- Spayed and neutered animals are less likely to roam, get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten people.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with too many animals. Spaying and neutering saves animal lives!

Why should I have my animal spayed/neutered?

The Benefits for You...

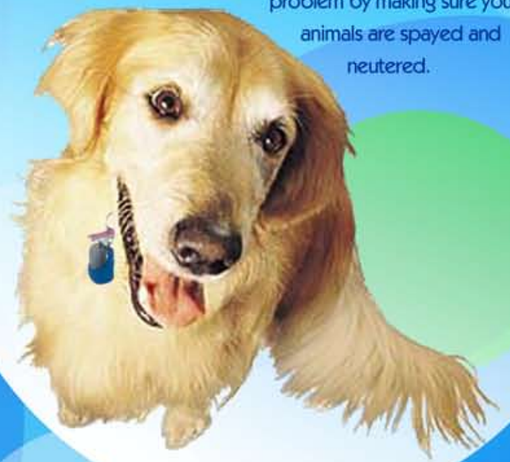
Pet owners that have their animals spayed/neutered do not have to:

- worry about what to do with unplanned litters of puppies and kittens.
- deal with bloody discharges from their female pet's "heat" periods.
- confine their female pet while she is in heat or watch her frantically pace and cry out for a male mate.
- be concerned about tomcats "spraying" in the house.
- be embarrassed by their male dog's urge to "mount" children and adults' legs and/or furniture.
- witness intense aggression in their pet.

Dog owners that spay/neuter their pet dogs also receive a reduced license fee each year (San Bernardino County residents pay $15.00 for spay/neutered animals vs. $96.00 for an unspayed/unneutered animal).

What does it mean to have an animal spayed/neutered?

Having an animal spayed/neutered means that you take your pet to a licensed veterinarian who performs an operation that makes it so your animal cannot have puppies and kittens (or in the case of a male animal, cannot help make puppies and kittens). This is very important because every year thousands of animals have to be killed in shelters all over the country simply because there are not enough homes for all of them. You can do your part to help stop the pet overpopulation problem by making sure your animals are spayed and neutered.



If you need financial assistance to have your pet spayed/neutered, please call

1-888-767-2550

They will let you know if you qualify for San Bernardino County's Spay/Neuter Voucher Program and/or other programs that may be able to assist you.

Please be a part of the solution and have your pet spayed/neutered!

Spaying & **N**eutering **I**s **P**et **P**ositive

Board of Supervisors
Brad Mitzelfelt , First District
Paul Biane, Second District
Neil Derry, Third District
Gary Ovitt, Fourth District
Josie Gonzales, Fifth District

San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
1-800-472-5609
www.sbcounty.gov/acc

MYTHS about Spaying & Neutering

MYTH: Spaying/neutering will hurt my pet.

TRUTH: Spaying/neutering is a safe and relatively painless procedure that is done by a licensed veterinarian while your pet is asleep.

MYTH: Spaying/neutering will make my pet fat and lazy.

TRUTH: Too much food and not enough exercise is the main cause of obesity in pets, just as it is in people.

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

TRUTH: The cost of spaying or neutering depends on the sex, size, and age of the pet, and your veterinarian's fees. Whatever the actual price, the spay or neuter surgery is a one-time cost. 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: Children should experience the miracle of my pet giving birth.

TRUTH: Even if children are able to see a pet give birth—which is 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: Only females add to the overpopulation problem, right?

TRUTH: No, a male can father far more offspring in his lifetime than a female can mother.

MYTH: Having a male pet neutered will take away their "guard dog" instinct.

TRUTH: Neutering a dog does not reduce its ability as either a guard dog or a watch dog. He will still be as protective of his territory/family as he was before the surgery.

MYTH: Won't animal shelters take care of the surplus?

TRUTH: Shelters do the best they can, but the number of unwanted animals far exceeds the number of available homes. This leaves many loving and healthy animals in our community who must be euthanized as the only humane solution to this tragic dilemma. Only spaying and neutering can end this overpopulation problem.

MYTH: Isn't it wrong to deprive an animal of the natural right to reproduce?

TRUTH: No. It is wrong to allow these animals to reproduce millions of unwanted off-spring who are eventually killed because there are not enough responsible homes.

MYTH: But my pet is a purebred.

TRUTH: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breeds and purebreds.

MYTH: Female pets should have one litter of puppies or kittens before being spayed.

TRUTH: This defeats the whole purpose. It is actually better for a female to not have a litter or a heat period before being spayed.

MYTH: I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.

TRUTH: 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.