

# Top Ten Reasons to Spay and Neuter

**Healthier Females:** Spaying a female cat or dogs helps prevent Pyometra , a serious condition where the uterus fills with pus, and breast cancer. Treatment for pyometra requires hospitalization, intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Breast cancer can be fatal in about 50 percent in dogs and 90 percent in cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat cycle offers the best protection from these diseases.

**Healthier Males:** Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male cat or dog prevents testicular cancer.

**Avoiding the Dreaded Heat:** While heat cycles can vary from pet to pet, female felines usually go in to heat for 4 to 5 days every 3 weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they will yowl and urinate more frequently-sometimes all over the house. Female dogs generally have bloody discharge for about a week, and can still get pregnant for another week or so.

**Better Behavior:** Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Male dogs may mount furniture or human legs when stimulated. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering. Neutered dogs protect their homes and families just as well as unneutered dogs.

**Less Risk of Roaming:** An intact male will become a Houdini in order to find a mate. He will do just about anything to get to her, including digging his way under the fence and finding ways to escape from the house. And once he is free to roam, he risks injury from traffic and fights with other males.

**Highly Cost-Effective:** The cost of your pet's surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray..... Or the cost of the unsuspected cesarean section.....or the cost of...well, you get the idea.

**Good For the Community:** Stray animals pose a real problems in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage local fauna, and scare children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of stray animals on the streets.

**The Miracle of Responsibility:** How many times have you heard someone say they don't want to get their pet spayed/neutered because they want their children to experience the miracle of birth? Anyone who as seen an animal euthanized in a shelter for a lack of homes knows the truth about this dangerous myth. Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping teaches your children irresponsibility. There are countless books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.

**It Will NOT Make Your Pet Fat:** Don't use that old excuse! Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds, not neutering. As long as you continue to provide daily exercise and monitor food you pet will remain fit.

**Fighting Pet Overpopulation:** And last, but certainly no least, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized annually or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying and neutering. We at the Gulf Coast Humane Society are dedicated to providing a non-lethal solution to the problem of shelter pet overpopulation.