

## Why is tattooing so important?

A scar from a spay or neuter surgery can fade to nearly invisible or can easily be mistaken for some other previous surgery. Without the tattoo and after the scar fades, there is nothing to tell the world your pet has been spayed or neutered. If your pet is lost or there is an unexpected emergency and somehow ends up in a shelter with no identification, it is possible a vet could perform unnecessary abdominal surgery thinking the animal has not been spayed or neutered.

Neutered you say? Uh, isn't that, uh, obvious?

Not always and here is why the tattoo is necessary for both male and female pets. Some male pets have a condition called cryptorchidism. Without going too far into the nitty gritty, this condition prevents the testicles from being visible; they never enter the pet's scrotum and are retained in the pet's abdomen, basically, the pet has testicles, but they are not obvious to the naked eye. The green tattoo on the males, tells anyone who might be providing medical care for this animal that he has been neutered...no need to explore that option, thus avoiding painful and unnecessary surgery.

The tattoo is a sturdy system for preventing unnecessary surgeries and an obvious, simple indicator that this animal has no reproductive organs. The tattoo is quick, simple and given under anesthesia immediately after the spay or neuter surgery. It can be lifesaving; can save time, effort, money and most certainly prevent invasive, painful surgeries your pet does not need.

