

# Animal Care Center, Inc.

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**AnimalCareCenterBaxter.com**

## WHAT IS SPAY/NEUTER?

Spaying is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus of a female to prevent pregnancy. Neutering is the removal of the testicles of males to prevent them from impregnating females.

## When to Declaw, Spay or Neuter your young animal

At Animal Care Center we want surgery to be performed in the safest possible fashion. Therefore we recommend surgery after the pet's wellness care is complete. This includes an examination by a veterinarian to make certain the pet is healthy, vaccines appropriate for the age & lifestyle, the pet is parasite free, is receiving proper nutrition and any behavior concerns have been addressed.

Our average young pet declaw, spay or neuter occurs at around 5 months of age. At this age pets are good surgical candidates and this age is typically before a female pet's first heat cycle or male pattern behavior is developed in male dogs. With certain circumstances pets may have surgery earlier or later when special needs or concerns are present.

## WHY SPAY/NEUTER?

### **It's good for your pet...**

- Spaying/neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by eliminating or reducing the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult and/or expensive to treat.
- It is best to spay your female pet before she goes into heat for the first time. This reduces the risk of mammary (breast) cancer and eliminates the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer in your dog.
- Neutered males will not develop testicular cancer and their risk of developing prostate enlargement is greatly reduced.

### **It's good for you...**

- Spayed/neutered pets are, typically, better behaved and more calm and affectionate than those that are not spayed/neutered. This is especially true if they are altered at an early age.
- Male cats are less likely to spray urine and mark their territory, especially if neutered prior to developing this habit.
- Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle, thereby eliminating regular bleeding, and the incessant crying and nervous behavior that often accompanies the heat cycle.
- Neutering decreases an animal's desire to escape and wander the neighborhood in search of a mate. This decreases the risk of fights, death caused by getting hit by cars, and lost or stolen pets. You avoid the cost and sadness of a lost pet.
- Spaying helps keep unwelcome male animals away.

### **It's good for the community...**

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Spay/neuter decreases the homeless animal population. Shelters are full of homeless animals, and there are not enough homes for all of them.
- Spay/neuter decreases the number of strays, which are often involved in dog bites and attacks, automobile accidents, defecation on and damage to private property, and more.
- Stray animals can also scare away and kill wildlife and other domestic animals.

## MYTHS & FACTS

**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.