

WHY SPAY?

1. PREVENTS UNWANTED BEHAVIORS.

--URINE MARKING: Animals do this in order to mark their territories and ward off possible invaders. To people it is a very unwanted behavior. Females also do this to attract males in the area.

--AGGRESSION: Intact animals tend to be less predictable in social settings. During heat cycles they can be protective of their “nest” and belongings.

--BLEEDING: During heat females bleed. This requires cleaning, confining, or dog “panties” to prevent contamination of your home.

--ROAMING: Intact females have an inherent drive to mate so they will go looking for the male. Therefore, they will dig under or climb over fences to escape yards.

--VOCALIZING: All females can be more vocal during heat. This is particularly true for cats. The noises they make to attract males are very loud and unpleasant to the human ear.

2. BETTER HEALTH FOR YOUR PET.

--CANCER: Unspayed females have a greater risk of developing tumors of the ovaries, uterus, mammary glands and associated tissues.

--PYOMETRA: This is a potentially fatal infection of the uterus. The only treatment is to spay the pet. Sick pets are a greater risk under anesthesia and have longer recovery times.

--EXTENDED LIFE: It has been shown that spayed pets overall live longer.

3. DECREASE PET OVERPOPULATION.

In every community, in every state, there are homeless animals. Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide, more than 2.7 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters annually. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100% effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

MYTHS

Spaying will make my pet fat.

Spaying does not directly result in obese pets. Too much food and not enough exercise results in pet obesity.

Females should have one litter first.

It is actually **not** better to have a litter or even a heat cycle before being spayed. Females are actually healthier if spayed before their first heat cycle. It has become the norm to spay as young as 5 months, and often as young as 8 weeks of age..

I want my kids to experience “the miracle of life” and I will find homes for all the offspring.

This is potentially contributing the pet overpopulation problem that already exists. Can you guarantee the homes they go to are good? Or that the animals won't end up in the shelters?

Spaying will hurt her.

The surgery is a safe and relatively painless procedure done by a licensed veterinarian. Research has resulted in significant improvements in pain medication. When done at a younger age, their rate of healing is drastically faster. Health risks of leaving your pet intact are much more life-threatening.