



Saint Mary Animal Hospital
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What do 'spay' and 'neuter' really mean?

- Female dogs, cats, and rabbits are spayed by removing their reproductive organs.
- Male dogs, cats, and rabbits are neutered by removing their testicles.
- In both cases, the operation is performed while the pet is under anesthesia.
- Spay or neuter surgery carries a one-time cost that is relatively small when one considers its benefits: your pet's health and the prevention of more unwanted animals.

Spaying or Neutering is Good for Your Pet:

- Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of health problems that can be very expensive to treat:
 - 1- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer as well as pyometra.
 - 2- Spaying greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer (particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle).
 - 3- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer.
 - 4- Neutering decreases (especially in dogs) the incidence of prostate disease, perineal hernia, perianal adenoma (tumor), prostate hyperplasia (tumor), prostate abscess

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- Neutering cats make them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying a dog or a cat eliminates her heat cycle, which can occur 1– 3 times per year.
- Females in heat can cry consistently, show nervous behavior and attract unwanted male animals.
- Spayed or neutered pets exhibit less behavior and temperament problems than unsterilized animals.
- Spaying and neutering can make pets less aggressive and are less likely to bite.

- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering Are Good for the Community

- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Communities spend millions of tax dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers; defecate in public areas and or on private lawns, kill birds and wildlife, and frighten or anger people who do not understand their misery or needs.