



Your Pet and Surgery

One of the most common reasons owners do not have their pet spayed or neutered is due to a fear of surgery. Spays and neuters are the two most common surgeries performed on dogs and cats and veterinarians usually do several per day. The risks are extremely low, especially when performed at an early age (4 to 6 months is ideal).

The night before the surgery, you will be instructed to restrict your pet's access to food and water. This is to avoid gastrointestinal upset that is sometimes associated with anesthesia. Then, upon arrival, your dog or cat will receive a medication to help him or her to relax. This medication also contains a pain reliever so that it will already be on board when the surgery is performed.

Before surgery is performed on your pet, several tests will need to be done to ensure your pet's safety and a full and quick recovery. Blood tests will check the function of internal organs as well as check for diabetes. The function of the liver and kidney is important as these organs help excrete the anesthesia, resulting in proper recovery. The blood tests also check to be sure the blood clots normally, which is imperative before any surgical procedure. Cats should also be tested for FIV and Feline Leukemia, if not previously tested. It is crucial that a cat be negative for these deadly diseases before surgery since they ultimately can work against a cat's recovery and overall health.

An EKG is used to check a patient's heart function before and during a surgical procedure. This is very important and anesthesia can be altered if there is a problem.

Blood tests and an EKG not only give some insight into your pet's health before surgery, but it also sets a baseline for your pet's future health. If your dog or cat becomes ill in the future, these test results can be used as a reference for diagnosis and treatment.

When your pet undergoes surgery, anesthesia will be given to keep them asleep and pain free throughout the procedure. There are several types of anesthesia that can be used, depending upon your pet, its health, and age. Sevoflurane is the newest gas anesthesia available for pets and is the choice anesthetic for human surgeries. With Sevoflurane, the patient falls asleep fast, and wakes up smooth and quickly.

Normally, your pet will spend one night at the veterinary clinic after being spayed or neutered and most male cats can go home the same day. Post-operative care will be discussed with you including suture removal and exercise restrictions. By the time your pet goes home after surgery, he or she may seem already back to normal or will do so within a few days.

Remember, the danger of your pet developing complications from NOT being altered greatly outweighs any surgical risk.



200 Eagle Nest Drive • Paducah, KY 42003

270-898-9PET

www.flanaryvet.com

Dr. LaNita Flanary • Dr. Marty Wynn

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PET NEWS

“Don't Litter, Spay & Neuter Your Pet Today”

Is Breeding Your Dog or Cat Right for You and Your Pet?

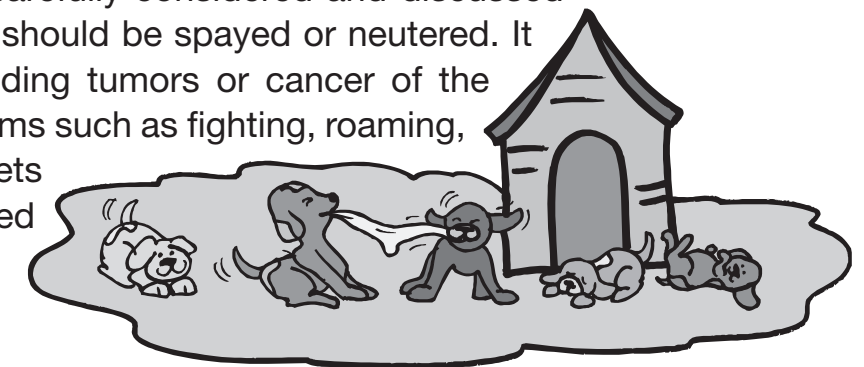
Being a pet owner comes with a lot of choices and responsibilities, from the type of food to feed to housing and training and on and on. These choices ultimately affect your pet's health and happiness.

One health care choice you will have to make is whether or not to spay or neuter your pet. Many people decide that they want to breed their pet, but it is usually for the wrong reasons. Breeding to sell puppies and kittens just because your pet is a purebred is often an excuse that can lead to more problems than anticipated. There are millions of purebred animals across the country, but that doesn't mean they should all be bred. This only leads to an increase in hereditary problems and more euthanasia of pets in shelters. In fact, 1 out of 4 animals taken to shelters are purebred.

Many complications can arise in the breeding process and unexpected expenses are often not considered. The cost of vaccinations and veterinary care of the offspring along with food can consume much of the profit. This doesn't include any complications such as possible C-sections. Many homes and garages are often damaged by a litter of curious kittens or energetic puppies.

The decision to have your pet spayed or neutered is entirely yours. However, spaying and neutering is very important to reduce pet overpopulation so all pets can enjoy a good home. Even if you do find homes for your pet's puppies or kittens, that means there are fewer homes available to take in pets from shelters. Millions of cats and dogs are euthanized annually or lead short, painful lives as strays.

Breeding your pet should be carefully considered and discussed with the veterinarian. Nearly all pets should be spayed or neutered. It helps prevent future problems including tumors or cancer of the reproductive organs, behavior problems such as fighting, roaming, marking and pet overpopulation. Pets that have been spayed and neutered make happier and healthier pets.



Benefits of Spaying Your Female Pet

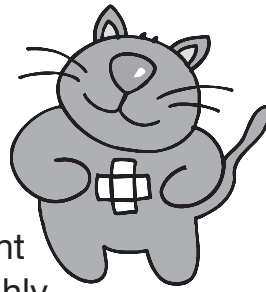
Spaying a female dog or cat means that the ovaries and uterus are removed by surgery. This completely eliminates the heat cycle and possibility of pregnancy. Spaying and neutering are the most common surgeries performed on dogs and cats. Although there is always a slight risk with any surgery, the procedure and anesthesia are very safe and highly recommended. The benefits are too great not to have your dog or cat spayed.

Female dogs and cats reach sexual maturity usually between 6 and 10 months of age. The best time to have her spayed is before this happens. The benefits still remain if your pet is spayed at a later time. However, if she is spayed before the first heat, there is a less than one percent chance of developing mammary (breast) cancer. The risk increases after each cycle. Mammary cancer is the most common tumor in unspayed female dogs and the third most common tumor in cats. Once the cancer spreads, it is fatal. If not spayed, one out of four dogs will develop breast cancer. Ovarian and uterine cancers are also very common if not spayed. Spaying your pet is the most effective preventive measure for mammary cancer, as well as completely avoiding ovarian and uterine cancer. Infection of the uterus, called pyometra, is also extremely common and can be deadly if not treated promptly.

When a female comes into "heat" her instincts to roam and find a mate increases which can result in unplanned breeding or a missing pet. The hormones associated with each cycle can also result in irritability, aggression and other behavior problems. Also, with dogs, especially those indoors, you will usually notice a bloody discharge with each cycle.

MEOW You wouldn't want to find this mess on your carpet or couch. Female dogs will usually cycle 2 times a year, lasting about 3 weeks each time. Female cats will have heat cycles 10 months of the year if not bred. They will usually yowl very loudly day and night. Male dogs that are not neutered often roam and can sense when a female in the neighborhood is in heat, resulting in unwanted strays in your yard.

Problems associated with pregnancy and giving birth can be completely avoided by having your female dog or cat spayed. Many animals can become ill during pregnancy and have delivery complications that lead to c-sections and intensive care. These problems can be dangerous and life-threatening to both mother and her offspring. Some female cats and dogs that are our loving pets do not make good mothers and do not want to take care of their offspring. This leaves you to be "The Momma" around the clock.



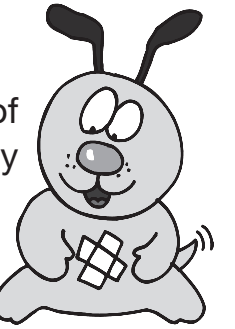
Benefits of Neutering Your Pet

Many people don't think of neutering a male dog or cat as a way of controlling pet overpopulation but it does have an effect. It is also highly recommended for his health and behavior. Neutering involves the removal of the testicles. This completely does away with any risk of testicular cancer, which is the most common cancer of intact male dogs. It also reduces the risk of prostatitis and prostate cancer. Problems with the prostate can be very painful, lead to urinary tract infections and can cause your pet to become impacted with feces, since it is painful to have a bowel movement. A prostate infection can also spread throughout the body.

Males that are not neutered can often exhibit behavior problems such as aggression, especially male to male. They may also become aggressive with their owners and family members. In cats, fighting with other males greatly increases his risk of contracting FIV and Feline Leukemia, both deadly diseases that can be transmitted by a single bite.

Intact males will begin to mark their territory with their urine. Male dogs, even if housetrained, may start to urinate in the house. Male cats spray their urine. The smell of an unneutered male cat is nearly impossible to eliminate due to the very strong odor. Even if he is an outdoor cat, spraying of the urine in the yard is often still overwhelming to owners (and neighbors). When a male is neutered before they begin marking their territory with urine they usually never develop that disruptive behavior.

Males that are not neutered also have an increased tendency to roam. Most male cats that are not neutered do not stay at home past two years of age. Their fate is often met while out roaming. Intact male dogs are the highest percentage of pets that are hit by cars, due to their wandering away from home. Even if your pet usually doesn't leave your yard, he may decide to take off if he senses a female is in heat down the road. Neutering your dog or cat greatly reduces the urge to roam and can help keep your pet at home.



Help Solve Pet Overpopulation - Help Save Lives

Most of us know that there is a pet overpopulation problem in this nation. The actual numbers are staggering, and every litter born adds to the problem. Even if you find homes for your pet's puppies or kittens, they take the places in homes that may have been available to a great pet from a shelter. There are more than 3 million dogs and cats nationwide that are euthanized in shelters every year. These are often the offspring of loved family pets. In just six short years, one female dog and her offspring can produce hundreds of puppies. Two uncontrolled breeding cats can create over twelve thousand cats in just 5 years!

For every dog or cat that is spayed or neutered, lives are saved. Every animal that dies as a result of overpopulation, there is an animal who, more times than not, would have made a wonderful companion, but was not given the chance. Could you imagine your cherished pet sitting in a shelter awaiting euthanasia without ever being loved?