

Spay & Neuter Facts

Why shouldn't my pet have just one litter?

While it may seem harmless, letting your pet have one or even two litters can cause big problems. Even if you find homes for all (or most) of the puppies or kittens, what about *their* puppies and kittens? In less than a year, all those puppies and kittens will be grown dogs or cats and able to have litters of their own. On a daily basis, thousands of puppies and kittens – healthy but homeless – are killed. Many of them came from “just one litter”.

Consider these facts:

- One dog and her puppies in just six years can produce 67,000 puppies.
- In seven years, one cat and her offspring can be the source of 420,000 cats.
- In the United States, every day, 70,000 (or more) puppies and kittens are born. Just 10,000 humans are born each day. Who will take care of all these dogs and cats? It's not just a problem of too many – each pet is an individual life.

Altering: It's good for your pet

- Neutered pets tend to live longer than un-neutered pets.
- Neutered pets have drastically reduced chances of suffering from numerous health problems. These health problems can be costly and difficult to treat.
- Spayed females do not suffer from uterine or ovarian cancer and are highly unlikely to suffer from breast cancer, especially if spayed before her first estrus (or heat) cycle.
- In male animals, neutering drastically reduces the chances of prostate difficulties (including cancer).

Altering: It's good for you

- Neutered pets are more loving and better-tempered pets.
- Neutered cats are less likely to mark their territory (or spray).
- A spayed female doesn't have estrus (or heat cycles). The estrus cycle happens about twice a year for dogs and three or more times a year for cats. It can last for six or more days and often results in a distracted, nervous female – who may cry or howl – and numerous unwanted male visitors.
- Neutered pets are less likely to bite. While neutering isn't a cure-all for all behavior problems, in combination with training it can mean drastic changes in a pet's behavior – almost always for the better.
- Male dogs or cats that are neutered are much less likely to run away or get into fights.



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