

## **Submitted by Armstrong Veterinary Clinic in Star Prairie**



### **Everything you ever (or never?) wanted to know about "fixing" your pet...**

#### **What exactly does "spay" or "neuter" mean?**

Spaying is the procedure to sterilize your female pet and prevent her from getting pregnant with a litter of puppies. It consists of removing the uterus and ovaries. Neutering is the procedure to remove the testicles from a male dog, taking away his ability to breed a female and father a litter.

#### **Are these surgeries painful?**

Your pet will be under general anesthesia, so the procedure is painless. Recovery is usually uneventful, and the worst your pet may experience is some discomfort and swelling. We will prescribe post-operative take home medication to alleviate these symptoms and speed recovery.

#### **How old does my pet have to be?**

The usual recommendation is to have the procedure done by the time your pet reaches six months of age, but our trained veterinary staff can determine what age is reasonable based on your pet's breed and size. Spaying or neutering at an earlier age is generally quite safe and acceptable.

## Are there any benefits to spaying or neutering my dog or cat?

In one word, **YES!** Contrary to what you may have heard, having your pet spayed or neutered will not make it fat and lazy. In will, in fact, help your pet live a longer life. A spayed or neutered pet is:

1. healthier -- it reduces the risk of breast, ovarian, uterine and testicular cancers.
2. more affectionate -- your pet will focus his or her attention on YOU, not on the instinct to create a litter. Spaying or neutering may also help prevent aggression problems.
3. better behaved -- non-neutered pets tend to mark their territory with urine. Non-spayed female cats will yowl and cry during their heat cycle, and unspayed dogs have a bloody discharge that will attract males from miles around for three weeks.
4. more likely to stay home -- non-spayed and non-neutered pets will take any advantage to get outside and roam, trying to fulfill their desire and instinct to mate.
5. less expensive in the long run -- your pet will have less chance of getting lost, hit by a car, exposed to contagious diseases and unwanted parasites that can all incur unnecessary costs. It is also less expensive to obtain a license for your spayed or neutered dog.

Millions of unwanted puppies, kittens, adult dogs and cats are destroyed each year because of pet overpopulation. There are not enough homes to go around. Humane societies and shelters are overcrowded. Abandoned pets cannot fend for themselves. Please help -- do YOUR part to help control this serious problem, and we'll do OURS!