

# Spay & Neuter

Every year, millions of pets end up in shelters across the country, typically by no fault of their own. The good news? Every pet owner can help put an end to this problem.

When you have your pets spayed or neutered, you're helping to put an end to pet overpopulation by preventing unplanned and unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. At the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center, we encourage all pet owners to have their animals fixed. Aside from preventing unplanned litters, spaying and neutering your pet has many benefits, including:

- Decreased risk of cancer
- Decreased risk of pyometra, a deadly uterine infection
- Eliminates female heat cycles
- Reduced behavioral problems
- Decreased risk of running away
- Fewer homeless pets
- Increased pet lifespan

## WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Spaying and neutering are routine surgeries that involve removing certain reproductive organs. For females, the procedure is referred to as "spaying" and includes removal of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus. Commonly called "neutering", male animals undergo the removal of their testicles.

## WILL MY PET'S PERSONALITY CHANGE?

Spaying and neutering does not affect an animal's personality, intelligence, or their ability to learn, play, work or hunt. Many times, pets tend to be better behaved after surgery, making them more desirable companions.

**ON AVERAGE, INTACT DOGS LIVE TO 7.9 YEARS VERSUS 9.4 YEARS FOR SPAYED/NEUTERED DOGS.**

## WHEN SHOULD I HAVE MY PET FIXED?

Talk with your veterinarian to determine when is the best time to have your pet spayed or neutered based on its breed, age and physical condition.



*This information is strictly for educational purposes only. Please contact your veterinarian to discuss spaying and neutering your pet.*