



Spaying and Neutering: The Responsible Choice

Spaying of female animals and neutering of male animals can lead to longer, happier, healthier lives for your pets while reducing the number of unwanted animals that end up in animal shelters every year.

Correcting Misconceptions about Spaying/Neutering:

- Pets do not need to reproduce to lead normal lives.
- Spayed/neutered animals will not become fatter or lazier if food is properly regulated.
- They will not become boring or miserable. In fact, they are often happier and more prepared to stay home!
- Spaying/neutering does not shorten your pet's life. On the contrary, spaying/neutering can prevent serious diseases of the reproductive organs.

The Benefits of Getting your Pet Spayed or Neutered:

- Your pet's lifespan may be extended due to disease reduction.
- Your pet may be less temperamental and more affectionate.
- Your pet is less likely to wander from home and be injured or killed by predators or motor vehicles.
- It prevents unwanted litters that many become strays and suffer from starvation and disease.
- Stops the spread of disease by sexual contact.

Specific Benefits for a Female Dog:

- Eliminates the nuisance and mess of three week-long heat cycles each year.
- Eliminates the chance of infection or tumors of reproductive organs.
- Reduces the risk of tumors in the mammary glands (especially if done when young).
- Eliminates attraction of male dogs.
- May result in lower licensing fees.

Specific Benefits for a Male Dog:

- Reduces undesirable aggressiveness and behaviour.
- Eliminates risk of tumors in testes.
- Reduces risk of prostate disease, perianal tumors and perineal hernia.
- May result in lower licensing fees.

Specific Benefits for a Female Cat:

- Eliminates the nuisance of constant heat cycles.
- Eliminates risk of infection or tumors of the reproductive organs.
- Eliminates the attraction of male cats, who will spray on your property.

Specific Benefits for a Male Cat:

- Reduces wandering away from home, aggressive behaviour and territorial fighting with other cats.
- Controls the objectionable marking or spraying of very odorous urine around the house.

The Nova Scotia SPCA knows you want the best life for your pet. We encourage you to make the responsible and caring decision to choose pet-hood for your pet instead of parenthood. Remember that many kittens and puppies end up abandoned and die: don't add to their numbers!
